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FBIS-EAS-92-026 CONTENTS *7 February 1992*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Survey: U.S. Superior in Worker Productivity *[KYODO]* 1
Miyazawa Apologizes Further, Criticizes Kondo *[KYODO]* 1
Miyazawa's Trip to U.S. 'Could Be Delayed' *[KYODO]* 1
  Bush's Campaign Given as Reason *[KYODO]* 1
Automakers Foresee Reduction in Exports to U.S. *[KYODO]* 2
Toyota Considers Raising Auto Prices in U.S. *[KYODO]* 2
Ability for 'Active Moves' on Trade Limited *[KYODO]* 3
EC Group Criticizes Britain Over Car Imports *[KYODO]* 3
Miyazawa Seeks Improvement in Russian Ties *[KYODO]* 3
  Views Visit, Territories Issue *[Tokyo TV]* 4
Ministry Spokesman on Delayed Yeltsin Visit *[KYODO]* 4
Ministry 'Confident' About Use of Aid to Russia *[KYODO]* 4
Japanese Partners Changed in Vladivostok Project *[KYODO]* 5
Russian Explanation of 1983 KAL Downing Urged *[KYODO]* 5
Refusal To Compensate 'Comfort Women' Reiterated *[KYODO]* 5
Tokyo May Expand 'Comfort Women' Investigation *[KYODO]* 6
Tokyo To Propose Limited End to Fingerprinting *[KYODO]* 6
Telephone Cable With ROK To Extend to Guam *[KYODO]* 7
Tokyo To Host Cambodian Reconstruction Meeting *[KYODO]* 7
Information Sought on Repatriated PRC Refugee *[KYODO]* 7
Police Group Tightens Rules; Returns Donation *[KYODO]* 8
'New' Table of Diet Political Parties Strength *[KYODO]* 8
Economic, Political Leaders Split on Donations *[KYODO]* 9
Hideo Watanabe Reveals Extra Recruit Money *[KYODO]* 9
Ministers Said Noncommittal on Abe Resignation *[KYODO]* 9
Hata Proposes Propping Up 'Weak' Stock Market *[KYODO]* 10
Brokerages To Post 80 Billion-Yen Pretax Loss *[KYODO]* 10
Limiting Trust Banking After Mergers Considered *[KYODO]* 10
Bank Lending Rate Said To Dip to 16-Month Low *[KYODO]* 11
Nuclear Energy Said Gaining Social Acceptance *[KYODO]* 11
Retailers 'Sharply' Curtail Store-Opening Plans *[KYODO]* 11
Tokyo To Stop Special Measures for Shipbuilders *[KYODO]* 11
Jan Condominium Market Ends 15-Month Slump *[KYODO]* 12
Nagoya Businessmen Ask for More Foreign Workers *[KYODO]* 12
Bank Urges Recruiting Women, Elderly Employees *[KYODO]* 12
Ministry Panels Urge Consumer Credit Protection *[KYODO]* 13

Mongolia

Trading Begins on 'First-Ever' Stock Exchange *[AFP]* 13
Trade Agreement Signed With Nepal 29 Jan *[Beijing XINHUA]* 14

North Korea

Delegates Initial N-S Agreement on Subcommittees *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Commentary Denounces U.S. 'Imperialist' Policy *[Pyongyang Radio]* 15
U.S. Troop Commitments 'Challenge' To Peace *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
Dailies Condemn U.S. Report on Human Rights *[KCNA]* 16

Diplomatic Relations Established With Tajikistan *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
Spokesman on Japan's 'Unreasonable' Nuclear Stance *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
Spokesman Denounces Venezuelan Coup Attempt *[Pyongyang Radio]* 18
National Alliance General Secretary Arrives 7 Feb *[KCNA]* 18
Daily Calls for Reunification Under Unity Banner *[KCNA]* 18
NODONG SINMUN on South's Economy, Debts *[KCNA]* 19
Kim Chong-il Praised as Ideologist, Theorist *[Pyongyang Radio]* 19
Guidelines on Socialist Ideas, Theories Lauded *[KCNA]* 22
'Massive' Effort for 'Chong Chun-sil Movement' *[KCNA]* 23
Modernizing Light Industrial Plants Stressed *[Pyongyang Radio]* 23
KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 7 Feb 25

South Korea

South, North Initial Accord on Subcommittees *[YONHAP]* 26
North Orders Goods for Kim Il-song Birthday *[THE KOREA HERALD 7 Feb]* 26
Inter-Korean Agriculture Cooperation Sought *[YONHAP]* 27
Cooperation Treaty With Russia Expected *[YONHAP]* 27
Philippine Government Requests Education Aid *[YONHAP]* 28
Saehan, NNDP Parties Announce Merger *[YONHAP]* 28
    UNP Joins Merger *[YONHAP]* 28
Democratic Party Announces Additional Candidates *[YONHAP]* 29
Ruling Party, Opposition Concerned Over Defections *[YONHAP]* 29
No Tae-u Issues Instructions on Elections, Talks *[YONHAP]* 30
Authorities Begin Campaign Against Election Fraud *[THE KOREA TIMES 7 Feb]* 30
Defense Ministry To Cut Term of Military Service *[YONHAP]* 30
Government Urged To Open Distribution Market *[YONHAP]* 31
Energy Ministry Notes Surge in Crude Oil Imports *[YONHAP]* 31
Conglomerates Seek Control of Foreign Companies *[YONHAP]* 31
Printers Increase Foreign Business by 18 Percent *[YONHAP]* 32
Consortium To Establish Ethanol Plant in Vietnam *[YONHAP]* 32
National Statistics Office Reports Findings *[YONHAP]* 32

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Khin Nyunt Announces New Navy, Air Force Chiefs *[Rangoon Radio]* 34
BBC, VOA Accused of Exploiting Rohingya Issue *[Rangoon International]* 34
Capture of Another Karen Rebel Stronghold Cited *[Rangoon TV]* 35

Cambodia

U.S. MIA Delegation Concludes Visit 5 Feb *[SPK]* 35
Prince Sihanouk Visits Kompong Thom 5 Feb *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 35
Sihanouk Discusses Environment With UNDP *[SPK]* 39
Former Leader Pen Sovan Discusses Exile, Return *[AFP]* 39
Hor Namhong Meets Philippine Special Envoy 3 Feb *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 40
CPP Greets CPV on 62d Founding Anniversary *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 40

Indonesia

U.S. Textile Agreement Extended Two Years *[Jakarta Radio]* 41
Daily Hails 1992 ASEAN Summit Declaration *[SUARA PEMBARUAN 29 Jan]* 41
Rebel Leader May Surrender; Hiding Place Located *[THE JAKARTA POST 31 Jan]* 42
Sutrisno Warns Portuguese Ship on Illegal Entry *[THE JAKARTA POST 28 Jan]* 42

Laos

Greetings Sent for CPV Founding Anniversary *[KPL]* 43
Military Committee Meets Thai Counterparts *[Vientiane Radio]* 43

More Refugess Return Home From Thailand [KPL] 43
Officials Pay New Year Visit to Chinese Envoy [KPL] 43
Nouhak Phoumsavan Receives French Delegation [KPL] 43

Philippines

Senate Ratifies Final Bases Conversion Bill *[THE CHRONICLE 7 Feb]* 44
Ambassador To Ask U.S for Conversion Funding *[Manila Radio]* 45
U.S. Aid Cut Said 'Response to Reality' *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 7 Feb]* 45
Aquino Reiterates Support for Ramos Candidacy *[Quezon City Radio]* 45
Study Urges Continued Nuclear Plant Loans *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 7 Feb]* 46
Military May Monitor Voter Registrations *[THE CHRONICLE 7 Feb]* 47
New Eastern Visayas National Police Chief Named *[MANILA BULLETIN 7 Feb]* 47
Army Syndicate Reportedly Sells Arms to Rebels *[THE CHRONICLE 7 Feb]* 47
Abadia Believes Honasan Not Guilty of Bombings *[BUSINESS WORLD 7 Feb]* 48
Suspect in Camp Crame Armory Attack Arrested *[Quezon City Radio]* 48
Abadia Denies Alleged Rapes of Female Detainees *[Manila Radio]* 48
Three Top New People's Army Officials Arrested *[DIYARO FILIPINO 7 Feb]* 49

Thailand

Burma Warned Against Cross-Border Pursuits *[BANGKOK POST 7 Feb]* 49
Cabinet Okays Increase in Border Rice Trade *[Bangkok Radio]* 49
Navy Takes Delivery of Chinese-Built Frigates *[Bangkok TV]* 50
Three Parties Set Up 'Tentative' Friendship *[THE NATION 7 Feb]* 50
Puang Chon Chao Thai Party, UDP Merge *[BANGKOK POST 3 Feb]* 51

Vietnam

Hanoi Hails U.S. Presidential Envoy's Visit *[Hanoi International]* 52
Meeting Marks Communist Party's 62d Anniversary *[Hanoi Radio]* 53
    Ho Chi Minh City Marks Anniversary *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
Officials Pay Tet Visits to Provinces, Units 54
    Vo Chi Cong Visits Quang Nam-Da Nang *[Hanoi TV]* 54
    Visits Ha Tay *[Hanoi TV]* 55
    Visits Industrial Cooperative *[Hanoi TV]* 56
    Do Muoi Visits Institute of Technology *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
    Vo Van Kiet Visits Oilfield *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
    Doan Khue Visits Navy Command, Units *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
PRC Border Gates Opened for New Year *[Hanoi International]* 57
Further on Causes of Socialist Defeat *[Hanoi Radio]* 57

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Foreign Ministry Admits To 'Classified' Leaks *[Melbourne International]* 59
Criminals Running Guns to Papua New Guinea *[Melbourne International]* 59

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Assures Visitors PNG Investments Sound *[Melbourne International]* 59

Japan

Survey: U.S. Superior in Worker Productivity

OW0702085692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The Labor Ministry, in an apparent move to pacify U.S. anger over controversial remarks by Japanese politicians, said Friday the United States far surpasses Japan in productivity.

The ministry, citing its own survey, said average hourly productivity of all U.S. industries based on the purchasing power of currencies was 62 percent higher than that of Japan. Based on the dollar-yen exchange rate, however, Japan topped the United States, the ministry said.

A controversial remark by former Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi that American workers are lazy and 30 percent of them are illiterate stirred anger in the U.S. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa added fuel to the controversy with a comment in the Diet that the U.S. may lack "a work ethic" and workers there no longer have "the sweat on the brow to produce added value."

The report, comparing productivity in Japan, the U.S., the former West Germany, France, and Britain, was handed to Miyazawa on Friday by Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo, government officials said. The officials said the survey backed up a claim by U.S. President George Bush that the quality of American workers is highest in the world. The officials said the productivity rate was obtained by dividing the gross domestic product (GDP) by the number of employed workers in each country.

Japan topped a list of productivity calculated on the basis of foreign exchange rates with 100 in 1989, compared with 95 for the U.S. and France in 1989, 93 for the former West Germany in 1988, and 68 for Britain in 1987, the officials said.

On a list of hourly productivity obtained by dividing the GDP by total work hours, the U.S. ranked first with 109 against 100 for Japan, the officials said. The figures for the former West Germany and France stood at 119 and 116, respectively.

The U.S. ranked first on a list based on the purchasing power of currencies with 162 against 100 for Japan, 139 for the former West Germany, and 146 for France, the officials said.

For the manufacturing sector, the U.S. stood at 130 against 100 for Japan, 120 for the former West Germany, 132 for France, and 90 for Britain, they said.

U.S. productivity in the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sector stood at 313, more than treble that of Japan, the report said.

Miyazawa Apologizes Further, Criticizes Kondo

OW0702035092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday his remarks on the alleged erosion of the U.S. work ethic were misunderstood and asked Labor Minister Tetsuo Kondo to revise his critical stance.

"My remarks were misunderstood, so I would like the labor minister to correct (his views)," Miyazawa said after a Friday morning cabinet meeting. "I said nothing about U.S. productivity being high or low."

At the meeting, officials said, Kondo presented Miyazawa with materials comparing the productivity of Japanese workers with that of U.S. and European workers.

"The prime minister should look at this scientifically before speaking," Kondo reportedly said.

In the wake of the furor aroused by Miyazawa's remarks to the House of Representatives on Monday, Kondo maintained the productivity of U.S. workers is not low.

Miyazawa apologized Tuesday for the remarks, insisting he had been misunderstood.

He suggested the American work ethic may have been eroded by a decade of speculative money games on Wall Street that rewarded get-rich schemes and tempted many away from manufacturing high-quality products.

Miyazawa's Trip to U.S. 'Could Be Delayed'

OW0602232392 Tokyo KYODO in English 2304 GMT 06 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's planned trip to the United States in May could be delayed due to presidential primary elections, according to government sources.

The sources said Miyazawa's trip to the U.S. may take place just before an early July economic summit of the Group of Seven major industrial countries in Munich, Germany.

During President George Bush's state visit to Tokyo last month, the two countries tentatively agreed to schedule Miyazawa's U.S. trip for early May.

It was not immediately clear if the potential postponement of Miyazawa's visit to Washington is related to his recent remarks that Americans have lost their work ethic due to the lure of Wall Street speculation.

Bush's Campaign Given as Reason

OW0702031592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's trip to the United States tentatively planned for May could be postponed as U.S. President George Bush will be caught up in his campaign for reelection, the top government spokesman said Friday.

"The Foreign Ministry has been informed that in the midst of the presidential campaign (Bush) will be very busy," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

He said discussions on the timing of the visit have not yet reached the top level of government, indicating that a May visit is still possible.

A government source said the trip could be rescheduled for early July, shortly before the economic summit of the Group of Seven major industrial countries scheduled for Munich, Germany.

Kato told reporters the possible delay is not connected to Miyazawa's recent comments on a decline in the American work ethic due to the lure of Wall Street speculation.

Kato attributed the apparent rise in anti-Japanese feelings in the United States following the widely reported remarks to a growing interest in Japan and said the two countries should not criticize each other.

"Compared with before, Japan's presence is looming larger in American public opinion. On the other hand, understanding and appreciation are increasing," Kato said.

He also noted that while it is true that some Japanese harbor negative feelings toward the United States, it would be unnatural for all people of a nation to share the same views.

"As (U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael) Armacost says, it is not constructive to emphasize only the awkward" aspects of relations, Kato said.

"We must take care not to comment on each other's weak points," he said.

Automakers Foresee Reduction in Exports to U.S.

OW0702110292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The Japanese auto industry will have little choice but to cut exports to the United States since the Big Three U.S. automakers will likely report a worst-ever combined loss of more than 6 billion dollars for 1991, industry officials said Friday.

"We will have to reduce exports to the United States so as to avoid a further exacerbation of trade friction," said an executive at one major Japanese automaker.

Under strong pressure from the U.S. Government and automakers, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has since 1981 maintained voluntary annual limits on car exports to the United States, and since 1985 has set a ceiling at 2.3 million units per year. MITI is now working on a review of the export curbs for fiscal 1992, which starts April 1, and will make a final decision as early as mid-February, according to MITI sources.

Japanese automakers have to date been opposed to any reduction in the annual export quotas, but their standing appears to have changed after Chrysler Corp. reported Thursday that it had suffered an operating loss of 665 million dollars in 1991. Analysts have predicted that General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler will incur an estimated combined loss of more than 6 billion dollars for the year, a figure way above the 4.1 billion dollar loss recorded in 1981 as a result of the second oil crisis.

"The difficulties facing the Big Three are serious. If they are left alone, the Japan-U.S. auto trade dispute will go the whole hog," [as received] said an executive at Nissan Motor Co., Japan's No. 2 automaker. The Nissan executive said Japan's efforts to expand purchases of U.S. auto parts and finished cars, as agreed at the Japanese-U.S. summit meeting last month, are far from what the U.S. automakers want.

"It will take time to implement these targets. They are far away from the specific remedy the Big Three want to get out of the U.S. auto industry recession," he said.

Toyota Considers Raising Auto Prices in U.S.

OW0702121192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. said Friday it is considering raising prices for all its cars in the United States, including those made at its U.S. factories.

The plan was made clear by Toyota President Shoichiro Toyoda at a Tokyo function for the release of new models. He did not reveal the extent of the price hike, however. Toyoda cited the yen's recent appreciation against the dollar as the main reason for the price hike.

But Tatsuro Toyoda, company vice president, said, "We have to take account of various factors in the U.S. market." The vice president's comment apparently implied Toyota is considering the worsening situation of the U.S. auto industry in the face of strong Japanese competition.

The "Big Three" U.S. automakers—General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler Corp.—are expected to report large losses across the board for the business year ended December 31. An industry source said Toyota is shifting its strategy from expanding market share to improving profits.

Toyota raised its automobile prices by an average 1.4 percent in January 1991, and by an average 3.9 percent last October upon releasing its 1992 models.

Ability for 'Active Moves' on Trade Limited

OW0702023292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0221 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Such knotty trade issues as rice import liberalization and "dumping" products abroad limit Japan's ability to take the initiative in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Friday.

Watanabe also told reporters after a cabinet meeting Japan will await moves from the United States and the European Community (EC) before taking major moves in such areas.

"Our burdens are too heavy for us to take active moves at present," he said.

Acknowledging that the global trade talks remain deadlocked, Watanabe said the government is studying ways Japan could break the deadlock.

The MITI chief called it "inevitable" that the talks would take much time to conclude as countries are looking after their mutually conflicting national interests.

Nevertheless, he said, all the negotiating parties know they cannot afford to let the talks founder.

Already more than a year past deadline, the five-year-old trade talks, held under the sponsorship of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), now face a mid-April Easter deadline but a dispute over farm trade reform has stagnated the talks.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu also said prolonged talks would make settling the thorny trade issues harder. "The later it gets, the more difficult things become," he said.

"If an early conclusion is essential, one idea is to agree one by one on areas on which no GATT member has an objection, without sticking to a comprehensive agreement on all fields," Tanabu told reporters after a morning cabinet meeting.

He said it is necessary for each member nation to bring up its own ideas.

"We can take time to discuss difficult fields like the farm trade issue and that's the way we have made progress," Tanabu said.

EC Group Criticizes Britain Over Car Imports

OW0702015792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Brussels, Feb. 6 KYODO—Britain's plan to open its market to unlimited Japanese car imports before 1999 would disrupt the European car industry, the European Automakers' Trade Association said Thursday.

It would also go against the spirit of the imports accord concluded between the European Community (EC) and Japan last July, said a spokesman for the 14-member Association of European Car Manufacturers.

Under the understanding, Japan agreed to restrict Japanese car exports to the 12-nation trading bloc to 1.23 million per annum for the seven years to 1999.

British Trade and Industry Minister Peter Lilley said Wednesday, however, that Britain should consider lifting all limits on Japanese car imports before 1999 to cut car prices and improve competitiveness.

Miyazawa Seeks Improvement in Russian Ties

OW0702080392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa called Friday for a dramatic improvement in relations between Japan and Russia by settling a long dispute over four islands off Hokkaido. He made the call in a speech to an annual national convention seeking reversion of the four islands to Japanese control.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe also appealed for public support for Japanese economic aid to prevent Russia from reversing its democratic reform.

"Japan intends to continue to provide humanitarian and technological assistance, including food and medical aid, in tandem with the international aid effort, to prevent the Russian Federation from relapsing back into the Soviet Union of the past," Watanabe told the rally of 1,500 people.

His statement echoed concerns voiced by the Group of Seven major industrial democracies at a recent meeting in New York that economic troubles gripping Russia might scuttle the fledgling democratization process there unless the world helps restore economic stability.

The four islands, which were seized by the Soviet Red Army immediately after Japan's 1945 surrender to the Allies, have been a major stumbling block to the conclusion of a peace treaty. Japan refers to the islands as its northern territories, whereas Russia says they are part of the Kuril Islands under its lawful jurisdiction on the basis of the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty in which Japan renounced its claim to the Kuril Chain. Japan maintains the four islands do not belong to the Kurils.

Watanabe's speech came one week after Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed to visit Japan in mid-September. Watanabe sounded cautious about the prospects that Japan would resume sovereignty over the four islands and conclude the peace treaty during Yeltsin's September visit.

"Although it was decided that Yeltsin will come to Japan in September, we cannot slacken our efforts and feel assured (about the reversion of the islands)."

Miyazawa made it clear in his speech to the convention that the conclusion of the peace treaty must be contingent on resolving the Northern Territories issue.

"It is crucial for Japan to seek to drastically improve the Japanese-Russian bilateral relations," he said.

"To achieve this, it is necessary to conclude the peace treaty by solving the northern territorial issue that has concerned both nations most profoundly," Miyazawa said. He pledged to demand "a courageous decision" from Yeltsin to return the islands to Japan during Yeltsin's visit.

Views Visit, Territories Issue

OW0702135892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Today, Northern Territories Day, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa addressed the National Assembly for the Return of the Northern Territories to Japan, which held its annual meeting in Tokyo. In his speech, the prime minister revealed a strong desire to resolve the northern territories issue. He said that he will call on Russia to make maximum efforts based on law and justice and to make a courageous decision concerning the issue.

This assembly is held every 7 February, Northern Territories Day, and the event today was attended by about 1,500 people from across the nation. Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Miyazawa discussed Japanese-Russian relations and said that it is necessary to conclude a peace treaty by resolving the northern territories issue that is still pending between the two countries:

[Begin Miyazawa recording] With President Yeltsin's visit to Japan forthcoming, diplomatic negotiations will be carried out through channels such as the Peace Treaty Working Group. I intend to strongly call on the Russian Federation to make the maximum efforts possible based on law and justice, and to make a courageous decision to build a new Japanese-Russian relationship. I would like to receive strong, unanimous support from all of you in this respect. [end recording]

Prime Minister Miyazawa touched on the northern territories question in an informal meeting with the press corps this afternoon. He said that President Yeltsin himself wants to visit Japan after gaining full understanding of the northern territories issue. Mr. Miyazawa, however, cautioned that it does not necessarily mean that the issue will be resolved with the president's visit in September, but he added that he thinks he should not let the chance go by.

Ministry Spokesman on Delayed Yeltsin Visit

OW0702110092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japan does not take Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent decision to hold off his anticipated visit until mid-September as a sign that Russia attaches low priority to Japan or the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents the setting of the date for the visit a few months after it had been expected "should not be taken as a sign of the president's taking the visit lightly."

Hanabusa said Japan understands that Yeltsin faces a daunting domestic and international agenda.

"Thinking of the numerous economic and other problems faced by the Russian Federation, he has good reason to choose the timing which will satisfy his assessment on how he could handle those problems," he said.

Yeltsin set the date for his visit to Japan in a meeting January 31 with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, when both were attending a summit meeting of the 15-member UN Security Council in New York.

Japan had strongly hoped the Russian leader would come before this year's Group of Seven economic summit to be held in Munich in early July, as with his current visit to France he has so far visited all the G-7 countries except Japan in his capacity as Russian Federation president.

Hanabusa noted that fact, but said, "I'm sure he's anxious to visit Japan at the earliest possible opportunity."

Japanese officials had earlier said a failure to come before the G-7 summit would signal Russia's inattention to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

Ministry 'Confident' About Use of Aid to Russia

OW0702083392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japan is confident that its shipments of humanitarian aid to Russia's Far Eastern region on Sunday will reach their intended recipients intact, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

"We have confidence that these materials will be reaching the people," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said at a news conference. Hanabusa was referring to Japan's plans to ship food and medical supplies valued at 40 million yen to three Russian Far East cities, part of an overall pledge of 6.5 billion yen in emergency help to the republics of the former Soviet Union.

About 22 tons of supplies will be ferried by a Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) patrol boat from Niigata to the Russian port of Vladivostok. An MSA airplane also will take about 1 ton of medical supplies from Hokkaido's main airport of Chitose to Yuzhono-Sakhalinsk, the capital of the neighboring island Sakhalin. Thirteen more tons of food and medical supplies will be flown Sunday from Narita airport to the Russian city of Khabarovsk.

Hanabusa said that before drafting the plan to send the aid, Japan sent teams to the recipient cities to discuss with officials how to assure appropriate handling and distribution of the supplies. Some potential donor countries and private groups have expressed concern that aid could be siphoned away from intended recipients by Russian organized crime syndicates or corrupt government officials.

The latest package of aid follows the shipment last week of 30 million yen worth of emergency humanitarian aid for delivery to the five former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and Uzbekistan.

The aid materials were sent to Frankfurt, Germany, to be included in the tons of food and medicine airlifted to the former Soviet republics by U.S. military cargo planes, a project announced at an international aid conference in Washington late last month.

Japanese Partners Changed in Vladivostok Project

OW0702085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0829 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Niigata, Feb. 7 KYODO—Apparently prompted by a lack of immediate cash, the Russian far eastern city of Vladivostok has suddenly turned down a consortium of Niigata-based companies as the partner in a joint venture hotel project and is now trying to lure another Japanese company, officials said Friday.

An official of Rinko Corp., a major Niigata transportation company, said the company has been informed by Vladivostok's Far Eastern Shipping Co. (Fesco) that it had found another Japanese partner who was ready to pay urgently needed construction fees.

According to informed sources, Fushiki Kaiun Rikuso Co., a Toyama-based transportation company, is believed to have taken over the project. Fushiki officials, however, have declined to comment.

Rinko, Soviet Union Investment Promotion Co., Fukuda Corp., the Niigata branch of Marubeni Corp., and Fesco had been in the final stage of reaching an agreement on the project.

The official said they merely had to come up with an agreement on technical aspects of how the investment was to be made.

He said, however, that Fesco had hastily begun construction of the hotel, and turned out to be in immediate need of cash to pay its Chinese contractor.

He said Rinko and Fesco have agreed that they will maintain their 30-year-old relationship, but "the hotel project is finished," and warned the precedent could be a damaging factor in the future relations.

Such fickleness is not unusual when doing business with Russia, the official said. Considering the chaotic situation in the country as well as its historical business practices, the Russian priority on attaining immediate cash rather than nurturing an enterprise from the long term perspective is understandable, he said.

Fesco and the Niigata group had agreed on the project in principle in October. In December, it was decided that the hotel would be capitalized at 8.4 million dollars, with the Japanese side holding a 31 percent stake. The partners were to have reached a final agreement this month.

Russian Explanation of 1983 KAL Downing Urged

OW0702093592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Relatives of Japanese passengers killed in the 1983 downing of a Korean Airlines [KAL] jumbo jet by a Soviet fighter asked Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Friday to press Russia for a full explanation of the incident. Watanabe told a four-member delegation representing the relatives he would do everything in his power to get to the truth of the incident, but said it "could take time."

The delegation called on Watanabe to make public all information gathered on the incident by other countries. They also asked him to press the Russian Government to honor a promise by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made during his 1991 visit to Japan that any new facts about the incident would be given to the Japanese Government.

On August 30, [date as received] 1983, a Soviet MiG fighter shot down the South Korean jetliner after it strayed off course near the island of Sakhalin off Siberia, killing all 269 people on board. Some of the passengers were Japanese returning from the United States.

Refusal To Compensate 'Comfort Women' Reiterated

OW0702041992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato reiterated Friday the Japanese Government's rejection of South Korean demands that Japan compensate World War II "comfort women."

He made the remark one day after new evidence was made public suggesting that then war minister Gen. Hideki Tojo was party to the practice of conscripting women from Korea and other Asian countries to serve in frontline military brothels.

Kato acknowledged that the government is examining large volumes of documents found at the defense agency library pertaining to the dispatch of tens of thousands of women—called "comfort women"—to such brothels.

On Thursday an opposition party legislator made public a 1942 telegram found at the library addressed to Tojo from a Japanese Imperial Army commander seeking permission to dispatch brothel managers to Borneo.

"Our position on compensation remains unchanged," Kato told a news conference.

Japan maintains that the issue of compensation for the Korean women was closed with a 1965 agreement on war reparations that paved the way for establishing relations with South Korea.

The government, however, has said it will closely follow a lawsuit filed last December by three former Korean "comfort women" who are seeking compensation from Japan.

The war reparations agreement provided funds to the South Korean Government for development assistance. Japan paid nothing, however, to the thousands of individual Koreans who, as colonial subjects, were used as forced labor for Japan's war effort.

Officials in Seoul have suggested that Korean women dispatched to military brothels should be entitled to compensation because the issue was not addressed in the 1965 agreement.

Tokyo May Expand 'Comfort Women' Investigation

OW0702101492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0930 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japan may expand its investigation of forced prostitution in World War II to include Chinese and other Asian women, as well as Koreans, the top government spokesman said Friday.

The government cannot ignore historic documents showing that Chinese, Filipinas and other nationals were among the women who were dispatched to provide sexual services to imperial army soldiers, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

"Our handling is no different," for other Asian countries, Kato said, but the government plans to first make a thorough survey of the Korean women.

Kato said that, aside from Seoul and Pyongyang, no other government has approached Tokyo about the so-called comfort women. He declined to say whether Tokyo would apologize to other governments as it has to Seoul and Pyongyang.

Kato's statement came one day after an opposition party legislator made public historic documents indicating that Chinese women and Filipinas were among the 100,000 to 200,000 women who served as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The documents included a 1942 telegram addressed to War Minister Gen. Hideki Tojo from a Japanese Imperial Army commander seeking permission to dispatch brothel managers to Borneo, currently the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

Commenting on the latest findings, Kato repeated the government's rejection of Korean calls to compensate the women.

Until last month the government had insisted frontline brothels were organized by the private sector, and the government was not responsible for them.

The government reversed its position shortly before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa made an official visit to Seoul, where he made a formal apology for the conscription of the women.

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The government, however, has said it will closely follow a lawsuit filed in December by three former Korean comfort women who are seeking compensation from Japan.

The war reparations agreement provided funds to the South Korean Government for economic development. None of the money went to the thousands of Koreans who, as colonial subjects, were used as forced laborers for Japan's war effort.

Officials in Seoul have suggested that Korean women dispatched to military brothels should be entitled to compensation because the issue was not addressed in the 1965 agreement.

Tokyo To Propose Limited End to Fingerprinting

OW0702024492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0137 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The Japanese Government Friday will submit to the Diet a proposal to end fingerprinting requirements for 640,000 Korean and Taiwanese permanent residents of Japan, officials said.

The cabinet decided during a Friday morning meeting to replace fingerprinting with a system to register Korean and Taiwanese residents by photograph, signature, and a family registry.

The new system, pledged a year ago by then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in a memorandum to South Korean President No Tae-u, is expected to be implemented in January 1993.

Another 320,000 foreign residents of Japan, however, will still be under the fingerprinting requirement spelled out in the 1952 alien registration law.

In the Diet, opposition legislators are expected to demand that the new system cover all foreign residents, while more conservative lawmakers are likely to balk at revising the registration law.

Fingerprinting requirements have long been criticized as discriminatory and several Korean residents are among 156 protesters who have refused to be fingerprinted and face prison terms.

Under the proposal, these Koreans would no longer be required to be fingerprinted.

Still, those failing to comply with the new registration system would face a prison term of up to one year or a fine of up to 200,000 yen.

Telephone Cable With ROK To Extend to Guam

OW0602143992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 6 (KYODO)—KDD on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding with American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T), Korea Telecom (KT), and Dacom, a South Korean data communications company to build an optical fiber cable linking Japan, South Korea, and Guam, the Japanese overseas telecommunications company said.

The project came in an extension of a deal under way between KDD and KT, South Korea's state-run telecommunications company, to lay a submarine cable between Japan and South Korea.

The planned undersea cable will be laid between Japan's Miyazaki Prefecture, South Korea's Pusan, and Guam's Tumon Bay with completion slated for early 1995, KDD said.

The cable will run 1,100 kilometers between Japan and South Korea to provide 15,120 telephone circuits and 3,300 kilometers between South Korea and Guam to create more than 7,560 circuits, it said.

Tokyo To Host Cambodian Reconstruction Meeting

OW0702004592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0008 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japan has decided to host an international conference in Tokyo in late June to help coordinate aid for Cambodia's reconstruction, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Friday.

The Japanese Government will host a preparatory meeting in Tokyo in March, Japan's largest daily said in a front-page article.

The June conference is to form a blueprint for a set of measures to build up Cambodia's infrastructure and set up a mid- to long-term international system to encourage Cambodia to move to a market economy, newspaper said.

Japan proposed a Tokyo conference on Cambodia's reconstruction at the time of last October's signing in Paris of a peace treaty to end nearly 13 years of war between the Vietnam-installed Phnom Penh government and three rebel groups.

The June meeting would bring together representatives of the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Australia, Thailand, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and other countries and organizations, as well as Cambodia and Japan.

The YOMIURI report came on the heels of a statement from the Japanese Foreign Ministry that Tokyo was "disappointed" at being excluded from recent talks on U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Japanese Government sources said the exclusion was a deliberate attempt by permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—particularly the U.S.—to limit Japan's role in the Cambodian issue.

Japan's effort to play a visible role other than providing financial assistance has been handicapped by its failure so far to pass legislation enabling Japanese military personnel to engage in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Information Sought on Repatriated PRC Refugee

OW0702091892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japan has asked China to confirm reports a woman deported from Japan last August while awaiting a court decision on her application for political refugee status has since been arrested and imprisoned, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

"We have communicated with the Chinese authorities through diplomatic channels about whether this lady is imprisoned and, if so, on what account," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said. Speaking to foreign correspondents, Hanabusa said Japan is yet to receive a reply from China on the matter.

Ministry sources said the request for information was made to China in late January, shortly after reports of 25-year-old Lin Guizhen's imprisonment appeared in the Japanese press. They said Beijing's reply is most likely delayed because of the February 4-6 government holidays for the Chinese New Year. "So we'll probably have to wait until next week," said one official.

Hanabusa said a letter about the case sent last Tuesday to Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe by the human rights group Amnesty International is "receiving attention." But he said a reply is yet to be made.

The group said in a press release Watanabe was asked to confirm information that Lin, who was forcibly repatriated last August, has been detained despite on-going lawsuits over her quest for refugee status. Amnesty also asked Japan to confirm on what charges she is being held and about her reportedly serious health condition.

It charged Lin's deportation violated a resolution adopted by a committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which says an applicant for refugee status can stay in the country where the application was made until the government comes to a final decision.

Lin arrived in Okinawa by boat in September 1989 with 230 other Chinese. The government deported her to China in August 1991 on the grounds she came to Japan without a visa or passport. She said she had participated in the suppressed pro-democracy movement in her home province of Fujian.

Police Group Tightens Rules; Returns Donation

OW0702025292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0132 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Washington, Feb. 6 KYODO—A U.S.-based international police fraternal group has tightened its fund-raising rules after returning a controversial 300,000 dollar donation from a major Japanese electronics maker, according to documents made public Thursday.

The International Association of Police Chiefs (IAPC) said in a new circular to its members that the group's president will no longer have the power to act alone in receiving "contributions, grants, gifts, or travel" on behalf of the association and that such donations must be cleared by the board of governors.

The letter, a copy of which was made available to KYODO News Service, said the association's entanglement with the 300,000 dollar donation by NEC Corp. in March 1991 and a free trip to Japan the following month for five IAPC officers paid by a Japanese religious sect with ties to the firm provided "important lessons" that prompted the rules revision.

"The visibility that was associated with that caused us to go back and review basic kinds of procedure that we should have," the police group's deputy executive director, Gene Cromartie, said in a telephone interview.

The controversy stems from a meeting at IAPC headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, in March 1991 with officials from NEC Technologies, a U.S. unit of Tokyo-based NEC that sells advanced police equipment, the letter said.

The NEC officials presented a check for 300,000 dollars to finance the establishment of a police leadership institute under the newly established IAPC foundation.

On the same day, Seiyu Kiriyama, the religious leader of Agon-Shu, a Japanese Buddhist sect, extended an invitation to five IAPC board members for an all-expenses-paid trip to Japan.

The invitation was delivered by Hiroshi Hitotsuyanagi, an adviser to both NEC President Tadahiro Sekimoto and Kiriyama, the letter said.

The trip, during which several thousand dollars cash was handed to the IAPC, prompted the resignation in December of a senior Virginia state public safety official and IAPC board member who took part in the four-day tour.

An investigation conducted by the Virginia attorney general has cleared the official, former Virginia Public Safety Secretary Robert Suthard, of any "conflict of interest" in accepting the trip or a 3,000 dollar cash gift from Kiriyama, the attorney general's office said Thursday.

Suthard and other IAPC officers who took the trip all returned the cash gifts to their Japanese hosts.

The IAPC returned the 300,000 dollars, with interest, to NEC on December 4 after the leadership of the IAPC foundation questioned the procedures surrounding corporate contributions, the letter said.

The association also decided to withdraw awards scheduled for presentation to Sekimoto and Hitotsuyanagi, the letter said.

The letter said, however, no endorsement of NEC products was "sought or offered" during or after negotiations for the donation.

NEC, which has sold advanced automated fingerprint identification systems to U.S. law enforcement authorities, was the only donor to the IAPC foundation, Cromartie said.

The IAPC has 12,500 members from 73 countries, an IAPC spokeswoman said. In Japan, the head of the National Police Agency and the chief superintendent of Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department are also listed as members.

'New' Table of Diet Political Parties Strength

OW0702112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Former Education Minister Gentaro Nakajima died of acute liver failure at a Tokyo hospital Friday, his family said. He was 62.

Nakajima, a Liberal Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives, served as education minister between 1987 and 1988.

Nakajima was elected to the lower house seven times from Gunma Prefecture.

The following is a new table of the strength of political parties in the Diet as of Friday.

House of Representatives	Parties	House of Councillors
277	LDP	114
138	JSP	72
46	Komeito	20
16	JCP	14
14	DSP/Sports	10

House of Representatives	Parties	House of Councillors
277	LDP	114
5	Shimpo Minshu Rengo	—
—	Rengo Sangiin	11
—	Sangiin Club	4
5	Independents	4
11	Vacancies	3
512	Total	252

Economic, Political Leaders Split on Donations

OW0702091592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Leaders of economic organizations and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) were divided Friday over the issue of political donations by enterprises, government sources said Friday.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, said in a meeting with economic leaders and LDP executives that he strongly feels political donations should be ended and called for a basic review of the system, the sources said.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), countered proposals from some economic circles that political donations be held back until political reform is realized, saying that pursuing only the ideal might lead to results "opposite" to those intended, and called for taking a "realistic" approach to the problem, they said.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki and other party leaders said solving the issue of enterprise political donations alone would not complete political reform. They noted that labor unions also make donations and said the problems of political donations must be discussed between the ruling and opposition parties, the sources said. The LDP executives also cited some voices within the party calling for the holding of "political fund-raising parties."

Touching on the stalled House of Representatives Budget Committee deliberations, the business leaders said the data on medium and small-sized companies is negative and the budget should be passed soon, the sources said. Diet business has remained stalled since the LDP rejected opposition demands to bring Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and 17 other persons before a Diet panel to testify on a bribery scandal involving the steel frame maker and would-be resort developer Kyowa Co. Opposition members have boycotted the House of Representatives Budget Committee deliberations in protest.

The economic leaders also called on the government to tackle the problem of restoring trust in the country's securities market.

Hideo Watanabe Reveals Extra Recruit Money

OW0702022392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0208 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Japanese Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe acknowledged Friday he had received 3 million yen from Recruit Co., in addition to 5 million yen he had admitted earlier.

Watanabe made the remark after a cabinet meeting. Recruit, an employment information company, was the focus of a scandal that led to the 1989 resignation of then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Watanabe recently came under fire for allegedly receiving hundreds of millions of yen from parents of high school students in exchange for using his influence to secure university admissions.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the government would not make an issue of the latest finding as Watanabe had properly registerd the funds as a political donation. He said Watanabe had also returned the portion of the money donated after the Recruit scandal was made public in 1988.

"The government does not plan to issue a warning," Kato said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Ministers Said Noncommittal on Abe Resignation

OW0702065092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0642 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and many of his Cabinet members refused to take a clear stand Friday on whether or not former cabinet minister Fumio Abe should resign from the Diet, according to a KYODO NEWS SERVICE survey.

Prime Minister Miyazawa said in response to the KYODO survey that it is up to Abe to decide whether he should stay in the Diet or quit. Abe was a top official in Miyazawa's faction in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) until allegations surfaced late last year that he was involved in the Kyowa Co. bribery scandal.

Abe has been indicted on charges of accepting bribes from Kyowa Co., a defunct steel frame company. Opposition parties have called for his resignation from the Diet.

Miyazawa's attitude was echoed by many members of his cabinet, including Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato.

Of the 21-member Miyazawa cabinet, Miyazawa and nine Cabinet members said Abe should make up his mind on his future. Health and Welfare Minister Tokuo

Yamashita, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe, Home Affairs Minister Shojuro Shiokawa, and Economic Planning Agency Chief Takeshi Noda declined to comment.

"I'm not going to answer your question. Ask Miyazawa," Shiokawa told KYODO.

Justice Minister Takashi Tawara and Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda implicitly advised Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agencies, to give up his parliamentary seat.

Tawara said it would be better for Abe to take into account common sense and moral obligations in considering his situation, and Okuda urged Abe to heed the public disapproval of corruption.

Foreign Minister Watanabe, while maintaining that the matter should be handled by Abe himself, said, "I want Abe to act according to his conscience."

Abe was freed from the Tokyo detention center on February 5 after his defense counsel posted 50 million yen bail.

Hata Proposes Propping Up 'Weak' Stock Market

OW0702022792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0206 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday steps should be taken to prop up the faltering stock market.

Hata told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the current state of the stock market does not faithfully reflect Japan's economic fundamentals.

"The problem is that the weak stock market is having a negative effect on the economy in general," he said.

Individual and some institutional investors have stayed away from stock investment, he said.

While admitting that the government should in principle refrain from intervening in the market, Hata nevertheless emphasized that measures should be taken to restore investors' trust in the market.

Besides short-term market boosting efforts, he said it is also important to help shift the focus of stock investment in Japan to increasing dividend returns rather than seeking only capital gains.

He suggested that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will soon announce a set of measures to provide a boost to the stock market as well as the overall economy.

Hata dismissed the lingering expectations of another cut soon in the official discount rate.

"Another cut could cause the bubble of speculation to resurge. That is something we have to avoid by any means," he said. "We have no cut in mind, at least not for the time being."

"Interest rates in the market and bank lending rates have fallen considerably. The most important thing for supporting the economy at the moment is to pass the budget bills through the Diet," Hata said.

Brokerages To Post 80 Billion-Yen Pretax Loss

OW0702100092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Hammered by slumping stock prices, the aggregate pretax losses of "second-tier" brokerage houses are estimated to exceed 80 billion yen in fiscal 1991, a survey by KYODO News Service found Friday.

Among 10 medium-sized securities companies surveyed, Kokusai Securities Co. is expected to be the only house to post pretax profits in the year ending March 31.

Losses by New Japan, Kankaku, and Sanyo Securities Companies, which suffered pretax losses of more than 10 billion yen in the first half of the current business year, are expected to rise, while most of other firms are unlikely to return to the black, the survey showed.

The firms are expected to lower their projections for the year in mid-March because listed companies are required by regulations to disclose business information if their pretax profits are off 30 percent or more and operating profits are off 10 percent from earlier forecasts.

Fixed costs like personnel costs and capital investment at New Japan, Kankaku, and Sanyo were found to be as high as those at the "Big Four" securities houses—Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko, and Yamaichi securitites companies.

If daily transactions in the first section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange remain sluggish in the 200-million-share level until the end of March, pretax losses at Kankaku and New Japan may surpass 30 billion yen, while those at Sanyo are estimated to be around 20 billion yen.

Last November, Okasan, Tokyo, Dai-ichi, and Yamatane securities companies forecast they will post pretax profits in the current business year. But these firms are also expected to fall in the red.

Limiting Trust Banking After Mergers Considered

OW0702143492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The Finance Ministry is considering limiting trust banking operations by ordinary banks after merging with trust banks by new provisions, ministry officials told KYODO News Service Friday.

The ministry will also work on modifying the law to allow regional banks and other smaller financial institutions to conduct trust banking, as proposed last June by the Financial System Research Council, an advisory panel to the finance minister. The officials said the revised draft will be presented to the Diet in mid-March.

Legally, major commercial banks, known as city banks, and long-term credit banks are allowed to conduct trust banking, but the Finance Ministry advised them not to do so in order to nurture trust banks. Aside from the seven trust banks, Daiwa Bank and foreign banks are the only ones engaging in trust banking.

The officials said the ministry is planning to take back the advice and deregulate trust banking operations to back mergers between institutions.

They said the reason trust banking will be limited for ordinary banks after mergers is to protect Daiwa Bank and other institutions whose trust banking operations are restricted. The ministry also wants to avoid unfairness with other organizations seeking to enter the business through their subsidiaries, the officials said.

An official with a major commercial bank, however, said the planned restrictions will reduce the benefits of mergers.

Bank Lending Rate Said To Dip to 16-Month Low

OW0702123892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The average bank lending rate dipped below 7 percent in December for the first time in one year and four months, falling 0.294 percentage point to 6.989 percent per annum, the Bank of Japan [BOJ] reported Friday.

The central bank said the margin of the monthly fall was the biggest since January 1980, providing fresh evidence of a falling interest rate trend. The average rate on newly offered loans during the month was also down, slipping 0.223 point to 6.877 percent, it said.

BOJ sources cited year-end factors behind the drop in bank lending rates as banks rushed to rewrite bills for year-end settlements at lower rates to reflect falling market rates since last summer.

Floating-rate housing loan rates fell substantially as they are reviewed to reflect rates retroactive to those six months or a year ago. The average rate on floating-rate housing loans extended by the 11 largest commercial banks, or city banks, dropped by 0.437 point in December, bringing the average rate down 0.303 point to 6.971 percent on an overall basis.

Nuclear Energy Said Gaining Social Acceptance

OW0702083792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0814 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Most Japanese people believe nuclear power will become an important energy source over the next 10 years, though few want active construction of nuclear plants, a survey said Friday.

The survey, compiled by the Research Council for Energy and Information Technology, found about 80 percent of the nationwide respondents perceive nuclear power generation as important for resource-poor Japan. Up to 90 percent of those living near nuclear plants share this view, up from 80 percent reported in a survey conducted two years ago. But when asked about construction of nuclear plants, less than half agreed to active building in a questionnaire covering about 2,500 people nationwide and 600 living near nuclear plants.

The council, affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said the respondents picked solar energy as the most promising and beneficial energy source for Japan in the future. But when asked about short-term prospects, about half chose nuclear energy as pragmatically the most important energy source in the coming 10 years.

The study also found about 60 percent of respondents are worried about the possibility of nuclear power accidents as destructive as the Chernobyl disaster happening in Japan. However, about 70 percent believe modern technology can avoid major mishaps.

Retailers 'Sharply' Curtail Store-Opening Plans

OW0702123992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Large-scale store opening plans reported by retailers have decreased sharply since last October, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Friday.

Under the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law, retailers are required to report plans for opening big stores, such as supermarkets, with over 500 square meters in floor space to authorities. MITI officials said the number of large stores reported to be opening in the future totaled 59 in October, 27 in November, and 25 in December, compared with a monthly average of about 100 in the first nine months of last year.

They attributed the decrease to the economic slowdown and the fact most store opening plans have been reported already. The officials predicted the number of store opening plans will remain low in the coming months.

The number of such plans reported last year totaled 965—586 in the first half and 379 in the second, both down about 30 percent from a year earlier, the officials said.

Tokyo To Stop Special Measures for Shipbuilders

OW0702030192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0058 GMT 07 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The government decided at a cabinet meeting Friday to repeal a temporary law enacted in 1987 to help pull the shipbuilding industry out of a slump.

The government will submit to the current Diet session a bill to abolish the temporary measures law concerning operation stabilization of designated shipbuilding enterprises, which is to expire at the end of March.

Under the temporary law, the shipbuilding industry has pursued structural improvement such as a systematic reduction in excessive production facilities and integration of shipbuilders.

The government chose to repeal the law because the industry's operations and management have stabilized as the shipping market has improved.

Jan Condominium Market Ends 15-Month Slump

OW0702101092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0845 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The number of condominiums put on the market in the Tokyo metropolitan area jumped 19.1 percent in January from a year ago, following 15 consecutive monthly drops in the figure to 1,586 units, a real estate research body said Friday.

The ratio of concluded contracts to the total—which represents real sales—also picked up 17.0 percentage points from a year ago to 66.2 percent, the Real Estate Research Institute Co. said.

It was the third consecutive rise in the contract ratio.

The contract ratio rose because new condominium prices were relatively lower than they were before, the institute said, adding that there are more than 10,000 condominiums on the market that remain unsold.

"It's going to remain a buyers' market for a while," a chief institute researcher said.

The number of unsold condominiums in January declined by 121 units from December to 11,583 units, due mainly to price reductions by real estate firms facing the closing of the business year, the institute said.

It said the condition of the January market was highlighted by the fact that a 284-unit luxurious condominium building was sold out on the day it was put up for sale by Mitsui Fudosan Co.

Prices of the Mitsui Fudosan building averaged 107.38 million yen per unit, or about 1.47 million yen per square meter, the institute said, calling the price not expensive considering the location in Chuo Ward in central Tokyo.

In addition, 11 out of 42 newly marketed condominiums were sold on the first day after they were put on the market in January, it said. Per-square-meter prices for those units were relatively low, between 600,000 to 700,000 yen, it said.

Nagoya Businessmen Ask for More Foreign Workers

OW0702133092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Nagoya, Feb. 7 KYODO—Businessmen in the Nagoya area ended a two-day business seminar Friday with a majority of participants pressing for active introduction of a foreign work force, including currently banned unskilled workers.

The seminar was sponsored by the Chubu Committee for Economic Development and Chubu Productivity Center, two business organizations based in the central Japan area.

Many participants voiced support for the introduction of foreign workers, pointing out that foreign employees, including unskilled ones, are needed to ensure the 4 percent annual economic growth rate that has been targeted by the government.

On other topics, some participants insisted that corporations should act independently, or without government interference, to reduce employee working hours.

Another issue dealt with technology transfer, with some participants urging that Japan work to transfer manufacturing technology to foreign countries as a way to reduce the trade imbalance rather than yielding to foreign pressure to open up the Japanese market.

Bank Urges Recruiting Women, Elderly Employees

OW0702095592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—The Japan Development Bank proposed Friday the active recruitment of women and elderly workers to ease Japan's worsening labor shortage. The government-financed bank, citing its own survey, said Japan's labor shortage will increase to 3.43 million people by 2000 if the country tries to attain a net 3.5 percent annual growth in its gross domestic product.

The bank's report said the current drive to reduce working hours will also add to the labor shortage. Consolidation of the working environment and active recruitment of female and elderly workers are indispensable for maintaining Japan's stable economic growth, the report said.

The report estimated Japan's labor force requirements in the year 2000 will be 70.37 million, given that annual work hours would be reduced to 1,800 hours from 2,119 hours in 1989 and provided that there is continued introduction of advanced technology.

The Health and Welfare Ministry estimated the country's labor supply would be at 66.94 million in the year 2000. If no efforts are made to overcome the labor shortage, Japan's annual economic expansion rate will have to be lowered to 2.9 percent, the report said.

Ministry Panels Urge Consumer Credit Protection

OW0702114492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 7 KYODO—Two government panels on Friday proposed legal measures to protect investors and consumers from risks involved in burgeoning credit claims transactions by leasing and credit companies. The two panels of the Industrial Structure Council, an advisory body to the minister of international trade and industry, proposed that factoring companies, or credit claim buyers, be obliged to clarify the objectives of their business and maintain a sound management.

The proposed requirement is aimed at preventing damages that might be inflicted on investors by financial troubles suffered by the factoring companies. The panels also suggested the government create legal protection for customers of leasing and credit companies that sell their credit claims to others to prevent such deals from undermining the customers' rights of privacy.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) intends to submit bills to the current ordinary Diet session based on the suggestions by the middle of March, ministry officials said. The proposals come as leasing and credit companies increasingly find the need to raise funds through sales of their credit claims. These companies, previously heavily dependent on bank lending for capital, are finding it difficult to secure funds as banks have become reluctant to lend due to their own international capital adequacy requirements.

The two MITI panels had earlier recommended promotion of such transactions as one way for the leasing and credit companies to obtain funds at lower cost, and some 100 billion yen worth of deals have already been done. With the balance of credit claims held by the two industries amounting to as much as 30 trillion yen and more, such practices are expected to become more prevalent.

Mongolia

Trading Begins on 'First-Ever' Stock Exchange

BK0702115492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Feb 7 (AFP)—At an hour deemed auspicious by Buddhist lamas, the chief clearing officer trilled his bell and trading commenced Friday on Mongolia's first-ever stock exchange.

Rows of brokers seated behind banks of computer screens and telephones calmly started bidding for shares in the trading hall, recently converted from a children's cinema in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar.

Despite failing to open as originally planned in October, the exchange was established in a remarkably short time for a country that threw off 70 years of Marxism in 1990 and launched a bold economic privatization program.

"Less than 10 months ago, we started planning in just one room," said Dzhagbasuren, a 21-year-old broker. "Now we have all of this."

But the exchange's chairman, N. Dzoldzhargal, was more pessimistic. In an interview the young reformer attacked the government's pace of economic reform and indicated that he might soon resign in protest.

The 27-year-old chairman said government involvement in the economy was still too great, with the budget not yet stabilized and foreign and domestic trade still slightly [as received] controlled.

"I think our securities market is strong, but if the economic environment is so sick, I'm really not sure of the (exchange's) future," he said.

Mongolia's privatization program is based on the giveaway of most of the state's assets through vouchers, which can be used to buy shares in large firms floated on the exchange or in small enterprises sold at public auctions.

So far, almost 60 percent of the country's 2.1 million people have claimed their vouchers, according to Dzoldzhargal.

At Friday's 75-minute ceremonial session, 16,000 shares in three listed firms were sold to the public. A total of 3.16 million tugrik (79,000 dollars) worth of shares changed hands.

The main company on offer, Ulaanbaatar Hotel, saw its price per share rise from its opening of 100 tugrik (2.50 dollars) to 250 tugrik.

Dzoldzhargal, educated in Hungary and the United States, said trading would take place every Tuesday for four hours until public market awareness grew. He expected trading to be five days a week by June, while a secondary market on which shares would be purchased with money was not expected to begin until a securities law was in place, also around mid-year. At that time, foreigners would be allowed to buy shares, but would be banned from owning more than 49 percent of any company.

Dzoldzhargal said average daily trading volume should reach 40 million to 50 million tugrik after the market finds its legs. Ninety of an anticipated 500 companies were ready to be floated, and would be introduced to the exchange at a rate of five per week, he said.

Several difficulties are expected to hinder the market, which was set up with the help of a group of American economists from Harvard University and a consultant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The problems include a lack of adequate communications between the central exchange and people in remote rural areas and difficulties in undoing the influence of decades of planned economy.

"Today people are willing to buy, but they don't think about the profit they will make," said Galhuu, the exchange's oldest broker at 35. The 29 brokerages now operating have offices in each of the 18 provinces and the three largest cities, but have only limited links with remote regions.

"In many districts, it's too difficult to get information about shares or to go to the provincial center to buy them," another broker, Sansar, said.

Analysts, including some at the World Bank, question whether the market would have enough liquidity to sustain trading once the vouchers have been used up. Debt-burdened companies also pose an obstacle. Dzoldzhargal said that despite his requests the government had refused to turn companies' long-term debt into bonds.

Trade Agreement Signed With Nepal 29 Jan

OW2901153592 Beijing XINHUA in English 1452 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Kathmandu, January 29 (XINHUA)—Nepal and Mongolia signed a trade agreement here today.

The agreement provides for exchange of delegations for promoting bilateral trade and mutual grant of the most favored nation treatment relating to customs duties and other charges as regards exports and imports.

All payments between the two land-locked countries will be done in convertible currency, except in cases where alternative arrangements are mutually agreed upon.

The agreement is valid for a period of five years with provisions for automatic extension of another five years.

North Korea

Delegates Initial N-S Agreement on Subcommittees

SK0702145492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The third contact between North and South delegates to the North-South high-level talks to discuss the formation and operation of subcommittees of the North-South high-level talks was held today on the South side's area of Panmunjom. Two delegates and other entourage members from each side were present.

In accordance with the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South adopted at the fifth high-level talks, three contacts between North and South delegates have been held since 23 January to discuss the formation and operation of subcommittees within the framework of the full-dress talks. Both sides coordinated opinions and adjusted the text of documents on the draft agreement on forming and operating subcommittees.

The formation of subcommittees to discuss and work out specific measures to sincerely fulfill the historic North-South agreement before it becomes effective greatly pleases all fellow countrymen, who warmly desire the country's peace and peaceful reunification, and all peace-loving people the world over who desire peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. This is the first agreement since the 4 July joint statement on independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

In order to promote mutual confidence and national unity and to open a phase favorable to the reunification of the fatherland, our side made every effort to form subcommittees of the North-South high-level talks before the agreement goes into effect, thus promoting discussions in all fields, including politics, military, economy, and culture, between the North and the South.

Because of our side's just demands and reasonable and practical proposal, the South side, acknowledging the unreasonableness of its proposals, withdrew its original proposals calling for separate sub-subcommittees under subcommittees and for inviting specialists to subcommittee meetings, proposals that contradict the spirit of the North-South agreement.

Thus, at today's contact both sides coordinated opinions and adjusted the text of documents of the draft of the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of Subcommittees of the North-South High-Level Talks. They compared the content of the agreement, confirmed it, and then initialed it.

In addition, both sides decided to issue a joint communique on the outcome of the contact.

The details of the formation, function, and operation of subcommittees were set forth in the draft agreement initialed today by both North and South.

The joint communique on the contact between the delegates of the North and the South to discuss the formation and operation of subcommittees to the North-South high-level talks says:

Contacts between delegates of the North and the South to discuss the formation and operation of subcommittees of the North-South high-level talks have been held on three occasions between 23 January and 7 February 1992 in Panmunjom.

In accordance with the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Bewteen the North and the South, delegates from both sides agreed to adopt the Agreement on Formation and Operation of Subcommittees of the North-South High-Level Talks based on sincere discussions about the formation and operation of the North-South political, military, and cooperation and exchange subcommittees and initialed it.

The agreement will be adopted at the sixth North-South high-level talks to be held on 19 February 1992 in Pyongyang and will go into effect after both sides' premiers officially sign it.

[Dated] 7 February 1992, Panmunjom

Commentary Denounces U.S. 'Imperialist' Policy

SK0602232792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Ho-sam: "International Situation During January Outlined"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught us: Although the past cold war structure caused by confrontation between the superpowers collapsed, the outdated imperialist forces remain intact and are pursuing their ambition for world supremacy.

One month has passed since New Year's Day, during which we have seen positive moves for detente and peace on the international scene. Regardless of the current trend, however, the imperialists are consistently adhering to the policy of force and rampaging indiscreetly to achieve their ambition for dominance.

Such a current international situation shows that the world's peace-loving people should be made aware of the policy of the imperialists' military adventure and should more vigorously launch the struggle to defend anti-imperialism, independence, antiwar moves, and peace.

During this month, there have been positive moves for detente and peace on the international scene. First, in Northeast Asia we have seen moves for detente and peace in the Korean peninsula situation, which has cause apprehension in the world. Following the adoption of the agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange last year, the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was announced in January this year. In parallel with this, the first high-level talks between the DPRK and the United States since the liberation from Japanese colonial rule were held in New York.

In these historical talks, issues including nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and the improvement of relations between the DPRK and the United States were discussed and mutual views were exchanged. At the same time, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets announced this month that they would suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercises this year, which have been conducted every year for 16 years despite opposition by our people and the world's peace-loving people.

This is a great victory for the antinuclear, peace, and reunification positions of our party and government, and it is an affirmative prospect for detente and peace on the Korean peninsula. The situation, which had been tense, was improved by our aggressive efforts.

While such a positive situation was created on the Korean peninsula, an positive event also took place in Afghanistan. As everyone knows, there has been a civil war between the government's forces and the rebel army since 1979. This has been one of the international disputes requiring an immediate solution. Even until the end of last year there had been no tangible progress, but this year positive signs have begun to appear. Thanks to the Afghan Government's reconciliatory measures, 10,000 rebel troops laid down rifles and surrendered to the government. Foreign news reports say that peace returned to 68 villages. This is a welcome event.

While Asia is experiencing such optimistic moves, indications of detente appeared in the dispute-stricken Latin America. In Mexico on 16 January, the Salvadoran Government delegate and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front signed a peace agreement to end the dispute which had continued for almost 10 year. On 25 January peace talks were held in Guatemala, El Savador's neighbor.

As mentioned previously, these events indicate that the atmosphere of detente and peace around the world are being gradually created.

However, a review of the situation in January indicates that the U.S. imperialists, as head of the world's imperialists, continue to run counter to detente and the trend of peace and would continue to attempt military adventures upon the countries that are implementing independent and progressive policies.

Let me quote some examples that happened during this month. Some time ago, the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee released a report that the United States should reshape its conventional military strength, which was formed in response to the former superpower, to one responding to potentially hostile regions and nations. The chairman listed among these countries the DPRK, Cuba in Latin America, and Syria, Libya, and Iran in the Middle East.

According to the chairman, if these countries commit an act of aggression, the United States would organize a counterforce to handle the aggression effectively through a massive operation, like the Persian war. Indeed, this is a haughty and rude statement that only warmongers, whose main jobs are aggression and war, can make.

The bellicose statement by the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee reveals the U.S. ambition for world supremacy, in which the U.S. imperialists will promote the strategy of solving the so-called regional dispute on a massive scale and thereby swallow up the whole world by targeting the independent and progressive countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and putting them within its sphere of influence. The situation this month shows that the U.S. imperialists are continuously promoting the policy by force to realize such an ambition.

Some time ago, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said that the United States would continue to maintain its troops stationed overseas. Saying that the United States should retain 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons to target at potential enemies, the U.S. Strategic Air Command babbled that such nuclear weapons should be aimed at the Third World countries.

The U.S. bellicosity was revealed in President Bush's trips to Asia in January. During his visit to Asian countries, Bush schemed to dominate this region in many ways. In South Korea Bush reaffirmed the U.S. security commitment to it. He also said that the United States would keep stationing U.S. troops there. In Japan he emphasized the importance of the Japan-U.S. security system again. The U.S. person in authority who accompanied Bush loudly talked about the formation of the security network involving the United States, Japan, and South Korea. This indicates that the United States is accelerating the formation of a triangle military alliance among the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

This month, the U.S. imperialists have launched more vicious strategic propaganda against our republic than ever. Saying that North Korea would develop the nuclear weapon within two or three years, the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency babbled that we had been selling long-range missiles and technology to other countries. This evolved from the U.S. intention to isolate us from the rest of the world.

The U.S. imperialists also strengthened the aerial war game against our republic this month. On 15 and 16 January alone, there were as many as 1,200 fighters mobilized for the aerial war game. This kind of U.S. move puts a strain on the Korean peninsula situation and increases the danger of war.

The progress, reaction, and countermeasures between the forces of war and the peace-loving people that occurred on the international scene in January show that the world's revolutionary people should be brought to a more heightened awareness and should thoroughly destroy the U.S. imperialists' ambition for world supremacy with a united force.

U.S. Troop Commitments 'Challenge' To Peace

SK0702061792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] In testifying before the U.S. Senate Budget Committee on 4 February, U.S. Secretary of Defense Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Powell opposed a drastic cutback in U.S. forces stationed overseas, including U.S. troops occupying South Korea, under the pretext of U.S. security. They said that U.S. forces abroad will be kept at an appropriate level.

Such words by the U.S. military brass show that the U.S. ruling clique's aggressive nature to hold the world in their hand by the use of force has not changed at all.

This constitutes a challenge to the peace-loving people of the world who are against all manner of domination and subjugation by outside forces and call for the withdrawal of alien forces and military bases.

In their testimony on that day, Cheney and Powell again confirmed the fact that they have shelved a plan for reducing U.S. troops occupying South Korea. This graphically shows how persistently the United States maneuvers to keep South Korea as a colony and military base.

Although North and South Korea have committed themselves to nonaggression and have declared the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, the United States tries to justify its attempt to perpetuate its occupation of South Korea, babbling about what it has repeatedly referred to as threats from the North. This shows that the United States is going to keep obstacles on the road leading to peace on the Korean peninsula and to peaceful reunification.

Dailies Condemn U.S. Report on Human Rights

SK0702054592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 7 Feb 92

["U.S. 'Human Rights' Ballad Refuted"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today comment on the current intensified anti-DPRK, anti-socialist campaign of the United States under "human rights" cloak.

Of late the U.S. State Department in an "annual report about human rights" cried that "independent thinking is suppressed" in socialist countries and the U.S. delegate to the U.N. human rights committee prattled that the DPRK, Cuba and other countries are acting against the people's "rights to choose their own government" and "to shape their future".

This is a vicious challenge to the DPRK and other socialist countries and base manoeuvrings to slander and insult socialism by misleading public opinion, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says, and continues:

It is an inveterate bad habit of the United States to vilify, plot against and attack others by inventing fictions and lies. It regards this method as an important link in the "peaceful transition" strategy against socialist countries and a tool to beautify the decadent and ailing imperialist society.

There is no "problem of human rights" over which the United States is raising a hue and cry in our country.

The outcries over "independent thinking" and "right of choice" are a quip of the U.S. ruling quarters prompted by their foolish dream of bringing about any "change" within us.

Citing concrete facts exposing the deplorable human rights situation in the United States, the worst one of human rights violation, the commentary says: It is a chauvinistic arbitrariness for the United States to provoke others and dare admonish them while concealing the seamy side of its own domestic situation.

MINJU CHOSON in a signed commentary notes that the U.S trumpeting about "human rights" shows that it is still acting against our Republic and other socialist countries with the "human rights club" in its hand and by doing so it is bringing into bolder relief its mucky color as a violator of human rights.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Tajikistan

SK0702000692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

["Joint Communique on Establishing Diplomatic Relations Between the DPRK and the Republic of Tajikistan"]

[Text] To develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all domains based on the principles of independence, equality, reciprocity, and noninterference in internal affairs, the DPRK Government and the government of the Republic of Tajikistan have agreed to establish ambassador-level diplomatic relations and to exchange diplomatic missions.

In accordance with the international norms and the Vienna agreement on diplomatic relations, the two countries' governments will provide to each other's diplomatic representatives all the cooperation necessary to fulfill their duties.

[Signed] Vice Foreign Minister Yi In-kyu, as authorized by the DPRK Government

[Signed] Deputy Foreign Minister (Raouma Tulayev), as authorized by the government of the Republic of Tajikistan

[Date] 5 February 1992, Dushanbe

Spokesman on Japan's 'Unreasonable' Nuclear Stance

SK0702052292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] On 6 February, a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman answered questions raised by a Korean Central News Agency [KCNA] reporter about the sinister remarks made by the Japanese Government authorities challenging our forward-looking measures and efforts to resolve the nuclear inspection question. The answers are as follows:

We have made clear our basic position on the ratification of the safeguards accord and inspection. This is shown in the fact that our country on 30 January signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in accordance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. In this regard, good reactions are being shown all over the world.

Many countries have welcomed the fact that there was an announcement on the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea. They have welcomed that with the United States and South Korea discontinuing the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which is a nuclear war exercise, the basic conditions and atmosphere enabling our country to sign the safeguards accord have been provided, and that finally we have signed the accord and are now able to fulfill it.

The IAEA, too, expressed its satisfaction over the fact that the safeguards accords has been signed between us and itself.

Even the countries which to date have unjustly put pressure on us concerning the nuclear inspection question, while welcoming the fact that we have signed the safeguards accord, are hoping that there will be inspections in the future. It is understandable for them to hope that inspections will take place in the future, for we have already signed the safeguards accord. The only unfinished business is to see the process and results of inspection, which will be conducted based on an agreement with the IAEA following its ratification according to the legal and working procedures.

At such a moment, the Japanese Government authorities alone, while pouring cold water on our forward-looking efforts and measures, have made remarks insulting our sovereignty. They argue that the question still remains unresolved, even after we have signed the accord, or that we will delay the ratification of the safeguards accord in a bid to earn time for the development of nuclear weapons. They even went so far as to suggest that we must be strongly urged to realize the nuclear inspection without conditions.

In view of the Japanese Government authorities' act of going beyond others in speaking ill of us, as mentioned above, it is as clear as the light of day that the Japanese Government authorities are hiding their own peculiar dark, secret designs up their sleeve.

It is widely known that quite unbecoming of themselves, the Japanese Government authorities spoke contrarily when it was reported that the North and South had adopted the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South, and followed it up with the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. In particular, the Japanese Government authorities kept unreasonably insisting even at the talks over normalizing diplomatic relations with us that the question of nuclear inspection is a basic precondition for normalizing Korean-Japanese relations.

Our people are keenly watching to see why the Japanese Government authorities, going beyond the bounds of reasonable thinking, have chosen to stick their nose indiscreetly into the question of our nuclear inspection.

Upon seeing such unreasonable behavior from the Japanese Government authorities, we cannot help thinking of them in a different perspective. We have come to realize that their true intentions differ little from the truculent, lawless fascist elements during the past period of the Japanese imperialists' rule.

We believe that the Japanese Government authorities' anachronistic behavior must stem from their perception that the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the eminent reunification of Korea run counter to the prospect of realizing their wild ambitions for domination and another invasion of the whole of Korea.

The world is now heightening its vigilance against the fact that Japan has stockpiled more plutonium than necessary. The world regards this as being directly associated with Japan's attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons.

This notwithstanding, the Japanese Government authorities, while effecting ignorance about it, keep picking a fight with us at all costs. This must be prompted by the Japanese Government authorities' fear and impatience that the justification for arming themselves with nuclear weapons, which they are doing, may disappear.

Under no circumstances will we do such things as refrain from doing what we should do because of anothers' pressure, or allow ourselves to be forced to do what we must not do for the same reason.

We have signed the safeguards accord, and this was a step taken because of our independent stance. It was also a step based on an independent stance we have declared that we will ratify it at the earliest possible date and accept inspection at the time agreed upon with the IAEA. We mean what we say, and we do not speak empty words.

We intend to settle the question of nuclear inspection in our country at an early date by ratifying the accord according to the appropriate legal and working procedures at the earliest possible date and by accepting inspections on the date to be agreed upon with the IAEA.

The question of nuclear inspection is an issue to be settled between us and the IAEA; it is not something in which Japan should stick its nose or interfere.

The Japanese Government authorities delayed the ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord for nearly a year. However, we clear state that we will do no such thing.

The Japanese Government authorities' undisguised move of rushing toward nuclear disarmament arouses a great deal of vigilance in all the Korean people in the North and South, Japan's neighbors. It also arouses uneasiness and apprehension in the people of Asia and the world at large.

History clearly remembers that the Japanese ruling class' ambitions for holding sway over Asia have resulted in many tragedies of wars of aggression in Asia surrounding the Korean peninsula.

We think that the Japanese Government authorities should, as a matter of course, wake from the dream of colonization that they used to dream of in the past empire and act discreetly, looking squarely at the trend of the times.

Spokesman Denounces Venezuelan Coup Attempt

SK0702082992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0400 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman on 7 February—read by announcer]

[Text] A military coup attempt took place against the current government of Venezuela on 4 February.

The Government of the Republic of Venezuela held an urgent government meeting on the same day and temporarily suspended the constitution. It announced the revision of some provisions of the constitution and took a series of measures such as the arrest of the mastermind of the coup and those involved in the military coup.

According to a report, the military coup was completely subdued approximately ten hours after it took place and the situation was stabilized.

The Venezuelan Government, headed by President Carlos Andres Perez, has enjoyed the support of the Venezuelan people as a constitutional regime elected under the constitution of the Republic of Venezuela.

We denounce the reckless act of the organizers of the military coup against the present democratic government of Venezuela and express support and solidarity for the resolute measures taken by the Venezuelan Government which suppressed the attempt in time and defended the democratic regime.

National Alliance General Secretary Arrives 7 Feb

SK0702115392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Yim Min-sik, general secretary of the National Alliance for the Reunification of the Country [NARC], arrived here today.

He was met at the airport by Han Si-hae, vice-chairman of the North side's headquaters of the NARC.

Daily Calls for Reunification Under Unity Banner

SK0702115292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 7 Feb 92

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for National Reunification Under Banner of Great National Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—To achieve great national unity is a basic guarantee for the accomplishment of the historical cause of national reunification. All the Koreans in the North, South and overseas, closely rallied under the banner of great national unity, should decisively smash the moves of the separatists at home and abroad and turn out as one in the nationwide struggle for the country's reunification, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article.

It continues:

In order to strengthen the driving force of national reunification, build up the internal force of the nation for reunification, secure an overwhelming predominance of the forces of reunification over the separatist forces and reunify the country at an early date, all the Korean people should achieve great unity, transcending the difference in ideology, idea, political view, religious belief, party affiliation and grouping.

All the members of the Korean nation must put the nation's common interests above all and subordinate everything to these interests; they must unite in the spirit of patriotism and national independence, irrespective of ideology, political view and religious belief.

Broad sections of the fellow countrymen in the North, South and overseas must, as members of the Korean nation, make tangile contributions to the cause of national reunification, those who have strength by giving strength, those who have knowledge by devoting knowledge and those who have money by donating money, according to their respective capabilities and conditions.

The authorities must work hard to remove the barriers within the nation, to eliminate the misunderstanding and distrust and to develop wide-range negotiations and diversified cooperation and exchange, so as to meet the common aspiration and expectation of the nation.

The authorities are particularly responsible for achieving great national unity.

They must sincerely make every possible effort in order to put the latest North-South agreement into reality, not reducing it to a mere sheet of paper, and must make a positive contribution to facilitating national reunification so as to discharge their heavy responsibility and duties for the nation.

Noting that the destiny of the cause of national reunification depends on how our nation, the driving force of reunification, unite with each other, the article stresses:

Only when the whole nation turn out as one in the nationwide struggle for the country's reunification, the historical cause of national reunification will surely be accomplished.

NODONG SINMUN on South's Economy, Debts

SK0702055692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 7 Feb 92

["'Sixth Republic' Saddled With Debts"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—South Korea's foreign debts exceeded 40 billion dollars by the end of January. This is the topic of a NODONG SINMUN commentary today, which reads in part:

This means that the South Korean economy is not merely plagued by a depression in the course of business cycle as claimed by the puppets but it has landed in a hopeless catastrophic crisis.

The South Korean economy, a socalled "export-oriented economy", is, by nature, a colonial economy which relies on outside forces for everything from raw and other materials to technologies and markets, and it is inevitable that such economy should fall into a chronic crisis.

The "economic policy" No Tae-u has pursued after his seizure of power under the slogan of "economic stability" and "increment in exports" is a "hunger export policy" of victimizing and impoverishing the toiling masses, a "sacrifice export policy" of driving the economy to catastrophe and a market-opening policy of leaving the South Korean economy at the tender mercy of foreign monopolies as a whole and flinging the door wide open for foreign monopoly capital to make inroads in South Korea.

The payment deficits in trade have annually increased since No came to power and they went far beyond 10 billion dollars last year. This makes it plain that foreign debts of South Korea will continue to snowball.

Nonetheless, No now shamelessly blares that he is capable of "revitalizing the economy" at its death's door and "leading it to growth." He is even talking about "aid to some countries." This is a crafty ruse to conceal their criminal acts in having driven the economy into catastrophe.

The No Tae-u ruling group must bear responsibility for the economic catastrophe and step down from "power," instead of trying to find a stopgap measure to redress its economic failure.

Kim Chong-il Praised as Ideologist, Theorist

SK0602122692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1000 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Unattributed talk: "The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il Is the Great Ideologist and Theorist of Our Times"]

[Text] The glorious days up to today since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il embarked on the road of the revolution is the most brilliant chronicle in which he has compiled immortal achievements for the era and the revolution. The greatest achievement of the immortal achievements that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has compiled for the times, the revolution, and mankind is that he has developed and enriched the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary ideology and has seen to it that the revolutionary ideology more vigoroulsy flies as the great banner of the times and the revolution.

The working class's revolutionary cause is the cause of realizing the leader's revolutionary ideology and can be consummated through the course of safeguarding and defending the leader's revolutionary ideology and constantly developing and enriching it. Accordingly, safeguarding, defending, and glorifying the leader's revolutionary ideology is the most important task of the working class's party, which takes the realization of the leader's ideology and leadership as its mission. It is also the basic problem in consummating to the end the working class's revolutionary cause, the leader's cause.

Thanks to the dear leader comrade's energetic ideological and theoretical activity the great leader's revolutionary ideology, that is, the chuche idea, has become an officially recognized trend of the times, and its driving force and its transformative significance are becoming greater along with the advance of history. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideological and theoretical acitivity is characterized by absolute loyalty to the leader and his cause. It is also not only the creative ideological and theoretical activity based on the chuche-oriented ideological viewpoint and chuche-oriented way of thinking, but is also the excellent ideological and theoretical activity which gives profound, extensive, and perfect answers to all problems that the times and the revolution set forth.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has compiled the immortal ideological and theoretical achievements of regularizing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary ideology in combination with the revered name of the leader and of elucidating its position in history.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's revolutionary ideology is the monolithic system of the great chuche idea discovered for the first time in the history of mankind and the theory and method regarding the revolution and construction which have been developed anew by the chuche idea. Therefore, it is the highest stage in the development of the revolutionary ideology of the working class. Regularizing the revolutionary ideology of the working class's leader and elucidating its position in history is one of the basic problems which arise in advancing the revolution and construction according to the leader's intent and in consummating the leader's cause to the end.

The cause of regularizisng the leader's revolutionary ideology and elucidating its position in history cannot be easily realized by someone, even though the cause is an inevitable demand of the times and the developing revolution. The cause is to be realized only by the leader's successor who is infinitely loyal to the leader and his cause and who has extraordinary wisdom and scientific insight. The cause of regularizing the leader's revolutionary ideology and elucidating its position in history has been brilliantly realized by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great genius of ideology and theory.

As regularized by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader's revolutionary ideology is the monolithic system of the chuche idea and the theory and method regarding the revolution and construction as elucidated by him. The regularization of the great leader's revolutionary ideology by the dear leader comrade was an important event which effected a change in the development of our party and the revolution and in the political and ideological life of our people. It was also a historic declaration which declared the leader's revolutionary ideology as the highest stage in the development of the working class's revolutionary ideology.

The great leader's revolutionary ideology takes the chuche idea, discovered for the first time in the history of mankind, as its quintessence and, based on this, has systematized the revolutionary theory and leadership method in a monolithical manner. Herein lie the basic characteristics of the great leader's revolutionary ideology, which differ from the previous working class's revolutionary ideologies. This means that the great leader's revolutionary ideology is a new and unique revolutionary ideology in its component system and content.

Based on his elucidation of the inherent characteristic of the respected and beloved leader's revolutionary ideology and its component system the dear leader comrade has clarified that the leader's revolutionary ideology is the great guiding ideology, guiding theory, and guiding method which represent the entire era of history, including the present era and the future of communism. This elucidates the historic position of the great leader's revolutionary ideology as the highest stage in the development of the working class's revolutionary ideology.

The regularization of the great leader's revolutionary ideology and the elucidation of its position in history by the dear comrade leader was a historic event of great significance in the working class's revolutionary cause for the independence of the working masses of people and in the development of mankind's ideology. With the regularization of the great leader's revolutionary ideology and the elucidation of its position in history the working masses of people have been able to have the perfect revolutionary theory which elucidates the most correct way for realizing their independence.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has compiled the immortal indeological and theoretical achivements of extensively systematizing the chuche idea created by the great leader and developing and enriching it anew. Extensively systematizing the immortal chuche idea created by the great leader and further developing and enriching it is a very important problem which arises in further consummating the chuche idea as the guiding ideology of the revolution and in strengthening the revolutionary influence of the idea.

The dear comrade leader, clarifying that the chuche idea is formed with the philosophical principle of chuche, the sociohistorical principle, and the guiding principle, has systematized and summed up all the contents of the chuche idea based on the independent stand and attitude, creativity, and sense of consciousness which are the [?peculiar] characteristics of man. The dear comrade leader has expounded anew the position and role of men in the world as the basic problem of philosophy and, based on this, developed all contents of the chuche philosophy. Thus, he has elucidated that the chuche philosophy has not only the essential characteristics which are completely distinguished from all of the previous philosophical ideologies, but is also the philosophicl ideology which presents a most correct way in pioneering man's destiny.

The dear comrade leader, while regularizing anew the socialhistorical principle of the chuche idea, has elucidated the inherent inevitability of the socialhistorical movement which differs from the movement of nature. There is no chuche [main force] in the movement of nature, but there is chuche in the socialhistorical movement. The discovery of the inherent inevitability of the socialhistorical movement that the socialhistorical movement takes place and is developed by the active function and role of chuche is a noteworthy historic event in the development of the philosophical ideology and revolutionary theory of the working class.

With the elucidation of the inherent inevitability of the socialhistorical movement which is distinguished from the movement of nature, the fundamental key which makes it possible to examine all social and historical phenomena and revolutionary movements from a chuche-oriented stand and to accelerate the victory of the revolution by enhancing the role of the popular masses has been provided. The dear comrade leader has provided the basic principle which makes it possible to adhere to the independent and creative stands by summing up the guiding principle of the chuche idea based on the essential characteristics of man; it also makes it possible to successfully carry out the revolution and construction by enhancing the role of men's ideology and consciousness.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has compiled the great ideological and theoretical achievements of deepening and developing the revolutionary theory of chuche to a new high stage. The revolutionary theory of chuche is the revolutionary theory which has been developed by placing the working masses of people at the center. It is also the strategy and tactics of the revolution based on the role of the working masses of people.

The dear comrade leader has further developed, enriched, and integrated the revolutionary theory of chuche with new ideological and theoretical assets. Thus, he has seen to it that the revolutionary theory of chuche becomes the more perfect revolutioanry theory of communism which sums up the theories on human reform, social reform, and nature remaking, including the theories on national liberation, class liberation, and human liberation.

The dear comrade leader profoundly elucidated the originality and greatness of the chuche revolutionary theory developed with the working popular masses placed in the center. He proclaimed that it is the great guiding theory of the revolution and construction of the chuche era, thereby providing the working class and the working popular masses with a guideline so that they can carry out the revolution and construction firmly adhering to the chuche revolutionary theory.

The dear comrade leader's theoretical works, namely, the theory on the position and role played by the leader and his successor in the working class revolutionary struggle, the theory on dyeing the entire society one color with the leader's revolutionary ideology, and the theory on succession to the leader's revolutionary cause are of particular significance in developing the chuche revolutionary theory.

The dear comrade leader newly elucidated and made a synthesis of these theories, providing the mightiest weapon with which to complete the working class revolutionary cause and the leader's revolutionary cause to the end.

The dear comrade leader further developed and enriched the chuche revolutionary theories on socialist economic construction, cultural construction, and military construction, perfectly clarifying the theory on communist literature and art.

The dear comrade leader made the immortal ideological and theoretical achievements of brilliantly developing and completing the chuche leadership method. In the past the working class revolutionary ideology failed to put forth the issue of leadership method as its unique component and to systematize it theoretically. The dear comrade leader newly systematized the issue of leadership method as a unique component in the great leader's revolutionary ideology and clarified its fundamental characteristic.

The fundamental characteristic of the chuche leadership method is that it is the leadership method that enables the working popular masses to maintain their position as masters of the revolution and construction and to fulfill their role as masters.

As the dear comrade leader profoundly clarified the fundamental characteristic of the chuche leadership method, it has been clearly elucidated that this leadership method is the most scientific and revolutionary leadership method in the chuche era.

The dear comrade leader newly clarified the fundamental principles and leadership system of leading the masses based on the position and role held by the leader in the working class revolutionary struggle and further developed and enriched the theory on leadership art, providing the working class party with a fundamental guideline and mighty ideological and theoretical weapon so that it can correctly lead the revolution and construction.

Truly, the dear leader comrade Kim Chong-il is a great ideologist and theoretician who has made immortal achievements in the development of our revolution and in the cause of liberating mankind by further developing and enriching the great leader's revolutionary ideology with his extraordinary wisdom and energetic ideological and theoretical activity.

The respected and beloved leader's revolutionary ideology—the great guiding ideology of the revolution and construction of our times which was founded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and is made more profound and developed more fully by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il—is giving its more resplendent ray to mankind with each passing day, vigorously pushing forward the popular masses' magnificent march for the realization of chajusong [spirit of chuche].

All party members and working people should cherish deep in their hearts the endless national pride and self-respect in having the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great ideologist and theoretician of our times, at the head of our party and the revolution and vigorously accelerate the socialist cause, the chuche cause.

Guidelines on Socialist Ideas, Theories Lauded

SK0702115192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 7 Feb 92

["Most Correct Guideline for Accomplishing Cause of Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—The ideas and theories on the accomplishment of the socialist cause put forward by our party are a unique ideology evolved on the basis of the chuche idea and an encyclopedic idea and theory which give perfect answers to all questions arising in carrying out the cause of socialism, says 7 Feb NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article goes on:

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in "Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party," "Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish" and other works gave comprehensive answers to the theoretical and practical questions arising in developing and accomplishing the cause of socialism.

An important feat of our party that expounded the ideas and theories on the accomplishment of the socialist cause is that it set forth the idea and theory of the socio-political organism, the driving force of the socialist cause, and thus gave an original elucidation of the motive force of developing socialist society and its features.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has taught:

"The essence of the socialist society which differs from all exploitative societies and the driving force which propels the progress of the socialist society lie in the fact that the popular masses work in comradely unity and with a high degree of consciousness, and ability as the masters."

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, basing himself on the chuche-based outlook on social history whereby to observe the revolutionary movement, centering upon the popular masses, defined the integral whole of the leader, the party and the masses as the driving force of the revolution and clarified a unique ideology that the cause of socialism is dynamically stepped up by the driving force of the revolution.

The idea and theory gave an elucidation of the driving force of the socialist cause and of the truth that the way of advancing the cause of socialism lies in arming the popular masses with the revolutionary idea and uniting them in organisations.

By clarifying that the driving force of the revolution is the social-political organism with independent viability the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a scientific exposition of the ideological and theoretical foundation on formation and consolidation and development of the driving force of the revolution and gave an original elucidation of the features of socialist society.

Another feat of our party that propounded the idea and theory on the accomplishment of the socialist cause is that it clarified the essence and superiority of socialist society centering on man and gave perfect answers to the questions of principle arising in giving play to it.

Now that the imperialists and the reactionaries are talking about the "superiority" of capitalism and intensifying slanders against socialism as never before, to give scientific exposition of the question constitutes a pressing issue in safeguarding the cause of socialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il propounded the original idea that socialism is the society of which the popular masses are the masters, it is society which is developed by the creativity of the popular masses that are united as one and that its superiority lies in the embodiment of the independent nature of human being to live independently and creatively and the superiority of Korean-style socialism is the excellent embodiment of the independence, creativity and consciousness of man and collectivist demand.

What holds an important place in the feats of our party that set forth the idea and theory of the accomplishment of the socialist cause is that it gave scientific answers to the theoretical and practical questions arising in carrying through the general line for the building of socialism and communism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il gave a scientific exposition of the tasks and ways of developing in depth the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions to meet the requirements of revolutionary practice and gave a comprehensive elucidation of the theoretical and practical questions arising in strengthening the people's government and enhancing its function and role under the leadership of the party.

Our party's idea and theory on the accomplishment of the socialist cause is a unique idea that has been evolved and integrally systematized on the basis of the requirements of revolutionary practice and the principles of the chuche idea and a perfect doctrine of socialism which gives scientific answers to all questions arising in developing socialism and carrying it to completion without any turns and twists.

'Massive' Effort for 'Chong Chun-sil Movement'

SK0702121292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—The "Chong Chun-sil movement" is now under way on a massive scale in Korea.

This is a movement to follow the example of Chong Chun-sil, director of the Chonchon County Commercial Management Office, Chagang Province, in unfailing loyalty to the party and the leader, the spirit of devoted service for the people, the practice of becoming a model in difficult and toilsome work, and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle, the spirit of carrying out revolutionary tasks by her own efforts.

Chong Chun-sil has devoted all her wisdom and energy to carrying through the slogan of the Workers' Party of Korea "We serve the people!" while engaging herself in commercial service for 30 odd years.

Over the last decade she produced thousands of tons of grain and scores of tons of cocoon together with the employees of the office and produced quantities of fur and meat by raising various kinds of animals. By supplying them to the county population, she has greatly helped toward improving their living standard. Nowadays public service workers and all officials are woruing as servants of the people in all parts of the country by vigorously waging the "Chong Chun-sil movement."

Different forms of mass movements have been waged dynamically at every stage of the developing revolution in Korea.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"The mass movement is an effective method for mobilizing broad sections of the masses to mass heroism and collective innovations and a powerful means to bring about uninterrupted advances in socialist economic construction."

The general ideological mobilisation movement for nation building, a grand movement of ideological revolution to transform the consciousness of the popular masses, and an increased production drive and an anti-illiteracy campaign were energetically waged in the early days of the building of a new country and society right after liberation. At the time when the Korean people had to accelerate socialist construction at the maximum speed after the war, vigorously waged the Chollima movement under the militant motto "Let us rush at the speed of Chollima!", in this course the First Five-year Plan (1957-1961) was fulfilled in two years and a half. [sentence as received]

All these movements were all intended to powerfully push ahead with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

Comrade Kim Chong-il reviewed the achievements made through the Chollima workteam movement for nearly 20 years and initiated the three-revolution red flag movement, a new mass movement of higher form. And he put forward the revolutionary slogan "Let us meet the requirements of chuche in ideology, technique and culture" suited to this movement.

This movement is aimed at developing the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, in depth and capturing the ideological and material fortresses of communism by transforming all fields of social life as required by the chuche idea.

Over 7,470 units have been awarded the twice three-revolution red flag and the three-revolution red flag, taking the country as a whole, through the movement waged from the end of 1975.

Comrade Kim Chong-il guided the people to wage various forms of mass movements including the three-revolution red flag movement, the movement to follow the example of the unassuming heroes and the model machine movement simultaneously in organic combination, thus bringing a great advance in all domains of the revolution and construction.

Today the Korean people are waging a dynamic movement of creating "speed of the '90s" in all realm, and thus steadfastly defending the Korean-style socialism and actively stepping up the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientization of the national economy.

Modernizing Light Industrial Plants Stressed

SK0602092292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Unattributed talk: "Under the Ray of the Great Sun—In an Attempt To Further Modernize Light Industrial Plants"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught in this year's New Year address: In the light industrial sector, the party's light industrial revolutionary policy must be highly upheld so that many good quality mass consumption goods such as fabrics can be further produced to fill stores.

Our functionaries and working people of the light industrial sector who are deeply bearing in their minds the great leader's teaching, are carrying out a vigorous struggle to supply the people with the consumption goods increasing demanded.

When recollecting the past, our country's light industry achieved truly magnificent developments. Whenever we think about our light industry which produces and supplies various consumption goods that are needed in the people's lives through its own strength, technology, and raw material, the people are warmheartedly recollecting the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's wise leadership in which he built reliable light industrial bases on this land and vigorously led us in the struggle to modernize them.

In an attempt to further modernize light industrial plants the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forth a basic line in the socialist economic construction: develop heavy industry first after the war and then simultaneously develop light industry and agriculture. He vigorously led the struggle to establish solid light industrial bases.

Therefore many light industrial plants where consumption goods can be produced are needed in the people's lives and raw materials to produce these goods exist throughout the nation including in the revolutionary capital of Pyongyang, Sinuiju, Hamhung, Chongjin, and Sariwon. Since then, the respected and beloved leader who built light industrial plants throughout the country vigorously carried out the struggle to modernize the production process, thus wisely led the people to produce more good quality and useful mass consumption goods in accordance with the developing reality.

In late July 1959, when muggy weather was continuing, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song personally visited the then Sinuiju spinning machine plant. When the great leader arrived at the plant, he kindly held the hands of the functionaries of the plant and encouraged them to work hard to produce new machines. He expressed satisfaction over the fact that the plant had been magnificently developed during the past year.

Next he visited the assembly work site. The newly assembled spinning machine was in the process of a trial run. The great leader who arrived at the spinning machine attentively looked over the machine which was endlessly spinning white thread. The respected and beloved leader bent his body to listen to the sound of the machine, and examined the well painted and polished machines. He said that compared with last year, the machine's vibration and noise was lessened and the machine was operating well. He asked a woman worker about the state of the machine which we had made by our hands. He also asked whether the thread was snapping. This woman comrade said to the fatherly leader that the thread was not snapping and was being spun smoothly. She cut a strand of thread from the spinning machine and gave it to him. The great leader took a look at that thread and went over to the window to hold it to the sun. He then warmheartedly said that we were successful in this work and that now we are able to spin good quality thread and make more fabric. He also said that now his mind is at ease.

On 24 October 1963, the respected and beloved leader who once again visited this plant personally looked over the newly made woolen spinning machine. He gave a teaching on making all facilities that are being demanded by the country's textile industry, into a complete unit.

When various woolen textile facilities were produced in an assembly line production style and special bearings were made to increase the number of the spindle revolution to a world standard, he personally called the functionaries to participate in important conferences and put forth methods to carry out the textile industry at high-speed and in a modern way. He also entrusted us with the honorary task of producing high-speed spindle and high-speed components.

The respected and beloved leader who taught, one by one, concrete methods to produce new style high-speed spindle and high-speed components, looked over the functionaries and said that if we entrust our work to them there is nothing that cannot be achieved. He also embraced them with great faith.

Amid the great leader's wise leadership and great faith, the functionaries, working people, and technicians of the Sinuiju Spinning Machine Plant were successful in producing new style high- speed spindle and high-speed components. They achieved proud results in spinning in the textile plants throughout the country by increasing the number of spindle revolutions to 12,000 to 15,000 per minute.

The proud results achieved in the struggle to modernize the country's textile plants were possible due to the great leader's wise leadership.

Today, our people are wearing good quality and shapely shoes. Here lies the warm story of the wise leadership and great consideration by the great leader to modernize shoe plants so that more good quality shoes can be provided to the people.

On May 1973, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song visited the then Pyongyang Vinyl Chloride Shoe Plant. Originally, this plant was a small plant with out-dated shoe producing machines. The output of shoes was not much and the quality was not good.

The great leader who understood this situation gave teachings on various occasions to build the plant on a large-scale and in a modernized way so that the quality of the shoes that are being supplied to the people can be enhanced decisively and greatly increase the output of the shoes. He unsparingly gave materials and funds that were necessary in building the plant and also provided up-to-date shoe producing facilities. Due to this kind of measure by the great leader, this plant underwent a complete new change, thus becoming a modern vinyl chloride shoe plant.

After undergoing this change, the great leader one day visited this plant. He looked over the production process and indicated that the quality of the shoes have been enhanced but that they should not be satisfied but should make persistent efforts to provide better shoes for the people.

The day after he gave on-the-spot guidance at the Pyongyang Vinyl Chloride Shoe Plant, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song convened a Political Committee of the party Central Committee, and put forth measures to sufficiently provide the people with more good quality shoes and once again cordially gave a teaching on the fact that they should not spare money in providing facilities to produce shoes.

Therefore, along with all other shoe plants throughout the nation, up-to-date facilities to produce shoes were further provided in this plant and the capacity to produce shoes was increase by as much as three fold.

The story of the wise leadership and great consideration by the respected and beloved leader who vigorously led the people in the struggle to modernize light industrial plants with deep affectionate love in order that they could further sufficiently provide the people with good quality and useful consumption goods by endlessly increasing mass consumption goods, is warmly conveyed to all light industrial bases including the Hamhung Woolen Textile Plant, a reliable woolen fabric base; knit plants in Kangso and Haeju; and foodstuff plants throughout the nation.

Today, our light industry is developing endlessly under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who is upholding with loyalty the great leader's magnificent economic construction plan.

During the past few years, under the wise leadership of our party, modern light industrial plants including the orlon production base were built, and new plants that will greatly contribute to further increasing mass consumption goods are being built. Moreover, by highly upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address this year, investment in the light industrial field is being increased and the supply work is being improved so that the modernization of light industrial plants is being further accelerated.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader and the party, our country's light industry will achieve endless development and the people will be able to enjoy a more abundant material and cultural life.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 7 Feb

SK0702054892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Nicholas Brathwaite, prime minister of Grenada, on the occasion of the 18th independence day of the country.

President Kim Il-song exchanged New Year's cards with heads of state of various countries, says the press.

President Kim Il-song received letters from foreign party leaders supporting his New Year address, according to NODONG SINMUN.

Conveyed in the paper are voices of South Korean people deeply revering the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Appearing in the press is a report that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to the film makers who have devoted all their energy and wisdom to the creation of a multi-part feature film "The Nation and Destiny" as a monumental masterpiece.

Celebration meetings and colorful functions were held abroad on the occasion of the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, and foreign news media gave publicity to his work "*Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party*", says the press.

Papers round up voices of people of various strata on the aforesaid work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

"Our Party's Ideas and Theories Are Most Correct Guideline for Accomplishing the Cause of Socialism" and "Let Us Dynamically Advance the Cause of Socialism by Thoroughly Implementing the Party's General Line" are the respective titles of NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON articles.

Econews of the press includes reports about the long-distance belt conveyor project of the Sunchon cement complex being stepped up at a fast speed and innovations effected in coal production.

Seen in papers are a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Tajikistan and a report on the results of the DPRK-U.S. high-level talks.

A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry in a reply to a reporter's question commented on the recent insidious remarks of the Japanese Government authorities against the DPRK's go-ahead step and efforts to settle the nuclear inspection issue, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary exposing the corruption of the South Korean authorities and an article on the chaotic situation created in South Korea with the "National Assembly elections" (general elections) and "presidential elections" slated for this year.

The paper prints an article titled "To Achieve Great National Unity Is Fundamental Guarantee for National Reunification."

Foreign news media exposed the dangerous nature of Japan's nuclear arming, a file on the "comfort women for the army" was discovered in Japan and a Japanese who had taken charge of drafting of women as "comfort women" laid bare the criminal deed of the Japanese Government, according to papers.

Foreign news columns of the press include accounts of lunar new year celebration functions held in different cities in the presence of Chinese party and state leaders and of a ministerial committee meeting of non-aligned countries.

Papers in commentaries hit out at the "human rights" ballad of the U.S. ruling quarters who took issue with and slandered the DPRK and other socialist countries.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article headlined "To Threaten by Strength Is Intrinsic Method of Imperialism".

Papers observe the 18th anniversary of the independence of Grenada.

South Korea

South, North Initial Accord on Subcommittees

SK0702105092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1028 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea initialed an agreement Friday on format and operation of political, military and exchanges-cooperation subcommittees.

The agreement, after formal signing by prime ministers of the two sides, will go into effect Feb. 19 at the opening of the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks. The three subcommittees will be established by March 19, spokesman for the South Korean side Yi Tong-pok said after a working-level contact at the truce village of Panmunjom.

But North Korea was negative to South Korea's demands to form a nuclear control committee before this month's high-level talks and exchange simultaneous pilot inspection as soon as possible, Yi said.

"There is cause for concern considering the general atmosphere at today's contacts," Yi said.

North Korean officials claimed that South Korean representatives to the high-level talks will not be welcome unless the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and collegian Yim Su-kyong, dissidents jailed for their unauthorized visit to Pyongyang, are released, Yi said.

The two Koreas, divided since 1945, signed an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression and exchanges and cooperation Dec. 13 during the fifth high-level meeting in Seoul.

The agreement calls for forming the three subcommittees within one month after the agreement goes into effect Feb. 19.

The subcommittees will be led by one chairman and six members from each side with monthly meetings. But the meeting can be convened anytime upon consent from both sides.

The meetings will be at the truce village of Panmunjom but also can be changed when both sides agree.

Subcommittees will adopt subsidiary accords to the Dec. 13 agreement and discuss formation of committees and opening of liaison offices at Panmunjom.

All subsidiary accords reached at the subcommittees must be reported to the inter-Korean high-level talks. The accords go into effect from the day prime ministers sign them.

South Korean officials proposed that the two sides commemorate the inter-Korean agreement by reopening negotiations for family reunions. They also proposed that as of March 1 they halt propaganda and mutual slander and open direct phone lines between prime ministers and military officials.

North Korea, however, rejected the proposals, spokesman Yi said.

South Korea demanded that North Korea ratify the nuclear safeguards accord before the sixth high-level talks and accept pilot inspection on Yongbyon nuclear facilities in the North and Kunsan Air Base in the South.

North Korea responded negatively to the demands, Yi said.

North Orders Goods for Kim Il-song Birthday

SK0702010092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Feb 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Seoul (AFP)—North Korea has ordered nearly $1 billion worth of consumer goods from South Korea ahead of President Kim Il-song's birthday, industrial sources said Thursday.

"The total amount of the consumer goods North Korea wants to buy for Kim's birthday is $800 million to $1 billion," an official at Sunkyong Business Group said.

He said that the consumer goods ordered from Pyongyang, called by South Korean firms as "April 15 goods" in alias, included a vast spectrum of goods, ranging from tooth brushes and clothes to refrigerators and laundry machines.

The goods are expected to be sold or handed out to North Koreans as gifts during celebrations of Kim's 80th birthday April 15, which is the most important national holiday in the hard-line Communist country.

Pyongyang placed millions of dollars of orders on Sunkyong, but Sunkyong gave up the deal because of low offered prices, he said on condition of anonymity.

Another source said most of the South Korea's exports to the North would be made in barter trades, with North Korea offering raw materials and resources such as coal in exchange.

Pyongyang called on South Korean firms not to attach brands on the goods, he said.

In a related development, local press reports said the Seoul government was considering signing a free trade agreement with the North to avert international criticism of nontariff transactions between the two Koreas.

The national YONHAP news agency quoted Finance Ministry sources as saying such an agreement would be necessary for growing trade between the North and South.

The inter-Korean trade has so far been negligible, but is expected to grow to $10 billion a year within a few years once an inter-Korean reconciliation accord signed in December takes effect Feb. 19.

The reconciliation agreement calls on the two Koreas to end their four decades of hostility and expand their bilateral trade, treating it as internal in nature.

The Seoul government plans to request the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to recognize the inter-Korean trade as internal trade.

Inter-Korean Agriculture Cooperation Sought

SK0702012292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0102 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek to exchange agricultural products with North Korea, to establish plantations in the Demilitarized Zone or in North Korea, and to jointly engage in coastal fishing, a government official said Friday.

He said the government would work out a systematic device to directly trade or barter surplus food—such as the South's rice and the North's potatoes and Alaskan pollack.

The government will study forming joint plantations in the Demilitarized Zone between the two sides near the truce village of Panmunjom, or in North Korea.

Cabbages, radishes and other vegetables that are suitable for highland farming could be cultivated and shared by the two sides, the official said.

"Fluctuation of harvests is a serious matter here. It causes problems in terms of price and farmers' incomes. A large-scale farm in the Demilitarized Zone or in North Korea may help effective price control and balance supply and demand," the official said.

As agricultural productivity was extremely low in the communist North, the official said, South Korea could offer North Korea techniques of cultivation, development of new species and mechanized farming, and send technicians and farm machinery to the North.

As for joint fishing, the government will seek to start by designating a joint fishing zone in the waters neighboring the truceline and expand joint operations on a step-by-step basis.

Underlining South Korea's shortage of ocean-going fishermen, the official said the two Koreas could engage in joint ventures in the field by combining the South's vessels and equipment with the North's manpower.

A package of measures designed to promote inter-Korean cooperation in the agriculture-fisheries sector will be referred to the sixth round of high-level talks opening in Pyongyang on Feb. 18.

An inter-Korean economic exchange and cooperation committee is to be inaugurated by May 19 and the government will make efforts to add a subcommittee on agriculture-fisheries cooperation, the official said.

Cooperation Treaty With Russia Expected

SK0602053292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia are likely to sign a treaty on good neighborly, cooperative relations during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Seoul in the latter half of this year, former Korean ambassador to Russia Kong No-myong said Thursday.

Kong said Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok would discuss a draft of the treaty with his Russian counterpart, Andrei Kozyrev, when the Russian minister comes to Seoul in late March.

Kong returned home Monday to assume a new post as the dean of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

The treaty will have the spirit of the Moscow Declaration announced during Korean President No Tae-u's visit to Moscow in December 1990, but will not include military cooperation, Kong said.

He said Yeltsin's Seoul visit would be linked with his visit to Japan and that it was likely to take place in the latter half of this year, later than earlier expected.

Kong said North Korea and the Russian Federation recently agreed to maintain friendly relations, with

Russia succeeding the Soviet Union as a party to the 1961 bilateral treaty of friendship and mutual assistance.

As a condition for maintaining the treaty, Russia asked North Korea to pledge that it will not engage in armed aggression and that it will give up terrorism and abide by international rules.

Kong said Russia and North Korea would soon enter into negotiations to revise or supplement the 1961 treaty to meet the call of the changing times.

"A trade agreement signed by the former Soviet Union and North Korea provides that 1 million tons of crude oil be supplied to North Korea annually, but last year, less than 100,000 tons were shipped, and bad economic conditions are drastically cooling down substantial cooperation between the two sides," he said.

"The former Soviet Union reserved hard currency settlement for North Korea until last year-end but Russia and North Korea will discuss the matter in the wake of changes in the situation, including the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the economic plight."

As for economic cooperation between South Korea and Russia, Kong said Russia was capable of repaying loans from Seoul as it had rich reserves of crude oil, iron ore, coal and other natural resources.

"It is desirable to view our relations with Russia in a mid- and long-term perspective," Kong added.

Kong has been named one of the South Korean delegates to the sixth round of inter-Korean high-level talks to be held in Pyongyang later this month.

Philippine Government Requests Education Aid

SK0502003892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0017 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—The Philippine Government has asked the South Korean office of supply to help purchase education materials for primary, middle and high schools, worth 35 million U.S. dollars.

The Philippines made the request on the recommendation of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which has extended the loan on condition that the Manila government make the purchase through the Korean Government's purchasing agency, government officials here said Wednesday.

The office of supply plans to send a team of officials to Manila where they will help prepare for international bidding for the education materials, the officials said. Some Korean manufacturers of education materials are expected to take part in the bidding.

Saehan, NNDP Parties Announce Merger

SK0602092792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 6 (YONHAP)—The Saehan party led by former professor Kim Tong-kil and the New New Democratic Party (NNDP), set up by former members of the Democratic Korea Party, disbanded in 1987, declared their merger Thursday.

Kim was named chairman of the preparatory committee and the first 59 district chapter heads were announced.

"We feel the responsibility for the current political turmoil to the bone, so we decided to create a national party that will lead the new era by cooperating with the anti-Democratic Liberal Party, anti-Kim Yong-sam and anti-Kim Tae-chung forces," a party statement said.

It said the party's name will be the Saehan Party and all the powers relating to mergers with other opposition forces will be entrusted with Kim, the chairman of the preparatory committee.

Chairmen of the party's district chapters include six former lawmakers—former Information Minister O Chae-kyong (Chongno constituency), Yu Kap-chong (Sodaemun-a), Yi Chung-hui (Kangso-a), Yu Chae-hui (Chungdong, Inchon), Yu Chei-yon (Tangjin) and So Chong-yol (Yongil-ullung).

Cho Yun-hyong, Vice National Assembly Speaker, Rep. Kim Tok-su and former Reps. Yu Yong-kun and Chong Chae-won have indicated a desire to join the party, spokesman Chang Tok-hwan said.

Some elder statesmen from earlier opposition parties, including Yi Min-u, Yi Chol-song, Cho Yon-ha, Kim Un-ha and Sin To-hwan, had promised to join the party "for the development of the Korean politics," Chang said.

UNP Joins Merger

SK0702085192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0802 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—The Unification National Party (UNP) and the Saehan Party, led by industrialist Chong Chu-yong and former Professor Kim Tong-kil, respectively, announced their merger Friday.

In a press conference at the UNP headquarters building, Kim formally announced the unconditional merger of the two parties "in compliance with the people's aspirations."

He said the new party would also be named "the Unification National Party" and acknowledged virtual absorption of his party by the UNP.

"The Saehan Party will not cling to factionalism and its equity in the new party," Kim said.

Chong said: "Kim and I have decided to unite and devote all of our passion to the common goal of saving the nation. I wish to serve the party as a common member."

The UNP will hold a founding ceremony for its central chapter Saturday. The UNP is expected to adopt a collective leadership system, under which it will have an executive council comprising seven or fewer leaders.

Chong is tipped as executive chairman to lead the council. Rep. Kim Kwang-il, and former Reps. Yang Sun-chik and Pak Han-sang are likely to be chosen as members of the council.

Democratic Party Announces Additional Candidates

SK0602015092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 6 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) announced an additional 29 candidates Thursday for the parliamentary elections scheduled for late March.

On Feb. 1, the DP nominated 178 candidates while the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) named candidates for all 237 constituencies, after weeks of maneuvering and infighting among factions in both parties.

The DP is expected to select the remaining 30 candidates later.

Thursday's announcement came following a round of intense discussions between the party's co-chairmen, Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, in a downtown hotel Wednesday night, party insiders said.

At the meeting, the two leaders decided to drop vice speaker of the assembly Cho Yun-hyong and one other incumbent—Kim Pong-uk. Cho is said to have alienated himself from the party when he criticized Kim Tae-chung for allegedly misusing political funds.

The two leaders, however, decided to renominate six incumbents, including Kim Chong-wan, Yang Song-u and Choe Hun, although the screening committee had recommended that the party replace them with new figures.

The announcement brought to 12 the number of incumbents who failed to get party nominations for the 14th National Assembly.

Among the candidates announced Thursday was Kim Kyong-chae, a former special aide to Kim Tae-chung who will run in the politically important district of Chong-ro in Seoul.

Ruling Party, Opposition Concerned Over Defections

SK0702082292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0548 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—The ruling and opposition parties are working to prevent many of their senior members from leaving because they failed to get party nominations for the parliamentary elections scheduled for late next month.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) believes that at least 60 members may leave, either to run for the National Assembly as independents or other parties, including one, tentatively named the Unification National Party, led by Hyundai group owner Chong Chu-yong, party sources said Friday.

They said DLP faction leaders were trying to persuade them to remain in the party and not to run in the elections. If they do run, DLP leaders fear, they could bite off large chunks of votes for party candidates.

Some members of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP), meanwhile, held a series of meetings Thursday and Friday and threatened to leave the party if it did not amend the list of candidates announced earlier.

The DLP nominated candidates for all 237 constituencies on Feb. 1 while the DP named the first batch of 178 candidates on the same day and 29 others Thursday. The DP is expected to select the remaining 30 candidates later.

Among those who failed to get DP nominations were vice speaker of the National Assembly Cho Yun-hyong and another incumbent, Rep. Yi Hae-chan. Cho has been at loggerheads with party leader Kim Tae-chung since he criticized Kim for misusing political funds.

Seven DP leaders, including Party spokesman No Mu-hyon, had a meeting in the parliamentary building Friday morning to demand that the top leaders reconsider their decision to drop Cho and Yi.

Seventeen other DP members throughout the country, dissatisfied with being denied party nomination, tendered their resignations friday and began to prepare to run for the elections independently or join another party, according to dp sources.

Over at the DLP, Kim Tae-yong, Kim Chan-u and Kang Chang-hui—and several other party members got together Friday to discuss the possibility of joining another party or running as independents.

Also considering similar move in the ruling camp are Rep. Chong Suk-mo, ex-lawmaker Yi Sang-chae, both from Kongju, Cho Hung-nae (Uiryong-haman) and Yu Sang-ho (Hapchon).

No Tae-u Issues Instructions on Elections, Talks

SK0702062492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told the administration Friday to prevent illegal and corrupt acts of electioneering.

No, receiving a weekly report on state affairs from Prime Minister Chong Won-sik at Chongwadae, also said that at the next inter-Korean high-level meeting the South should urge the North to allow outside inspection of its nuclear facilities at an early date.

As the major parties had nearly completed the selection of their candidates for the March general elections, there was a strong danger of advance and illegal electioneering, he said.

"All those involved in unlawful acts of electioneering and those soliciting cash or handouts from candidates should be rigidly dealt with," No said.

At the sixth round of prime ministerial talks, opening in Pyongyang on Feb. 18, the South should explain to the North that early acceptance of outside nuclear inspection would be conducive to progress in inter-Korean relations, he said.

No said that the meeting should strive to resolve the issue of reunions of separated families with emphasis on visits by aged people to their birthplaces.

He also advised Chong that relevant government agencies should coordinate business deals with North Korea so that private firms don't engage in cut-throat competition.

Authorities Begin Campaign Against Election Fraud

SK0702003592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Law enforcement authorities, teaming up with the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), have launched an intensive crackdown on illegal election campaigning.

It was taken as part of the preemptive measures as the ruling and opposition parties have virtually completed nomination of the general election candidates.

Election campaigning is likely to go into full swing soon even though election day has yet to be fixed. The government said the 14th National Assembly elections would be held by the end of March, but is still lingering on it.

The Prosecutor General's Office said it would tighten supervising activities to detect illegal electioneering cases in cooperation with the police and CEMC officials.

The probe will be centered on determining whether election candidates offer cash or gifts to voters in seeking their support.

According to the prosecution, conventions of regional party chapters will be closely watched as candidates usually offer feasts, gifts or cash envelopes to voters on those occasions.

Watchdog teams will be also dispatched to tourist resorts or spas in an efforts to check whether election candidates sponsor group tours of voters.

Voters asking favors or cash from election candidates will face harsh legal action as well, the prosecution added.

The prosecution will, at the same time, speed up its investigation of those accused or brought complaints for allegedly breaking the election law.

Including nine lawmakers, 60 persons are now suspected of violating the election law by engaging in pre-election campaigning and offering feast-for-vote activities, a prosecution spokesman said.

Previously, the prosecution decided to wind up its probe of the lawmakers by arresting two or three of them on charges of violating the election law.

Defense Ministry To Cut Term of Military Service

SK0602092992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 6 (YONHAP)—Enlisted men currently on active duty will get out from one to five months early as a result of the transition to a new service period system on Jan. 1 next year, the Defense Ministry announced Wednesday.

The ministry announced in September that it would reduce the period of service for enlisted soldiers from 30 to 26 months, for sailors from 32 months to 30 months and for airmen from 35 months to 30 months.

Under follow-up measures worked out by the ministry and the Manpower Administration, the service terms of soldiers, sailors and airmen currently on active service will be cut on a gradual basis in four, two and three stages, respectively.

Enlisted men called up between February 1991 and December 1992 will serve one to four months less than the compulsory period of 30 months.

Sailors who joined the Navy between December 1990 and December 1992 will have their time shortened by one to two months.

Airmen who entered active service between March 1989 and December 1992 will get out one to five months early under the measures.

The measures were designed to help enlisted men benefit from a shorter period in the military than they signed up for.

Government Urged To Open Distribution Market

SK0602072692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea should go ahead with plans to gradually open its distribution market because it will do more good for consumers and industrial competitiveness than harm to domestic industry, a government think tank said Thursday.

Only two foreign distribution companies have applied to invest in the retail sector since its second-stage opening in July last year, the Korea Development Institute said in a report on the prospects for distribution market opening.

If foreign firms make greater inroads into the domestic market, local distributors will see a drop in profit and some may even go bankrupt, but the damage will be offset by lower consumer prices for imports and by accelerated modernization of the Korean distribution market, the report said.

It will be difficult for foreign firms to directly operate department stores, convenience stores, large-scale stores that specialize in certain products, supermarkets or commodity wholesalers for some time because investment in these areas will not pay off, due largely to restrictions on the size and number of stores.

As long as the government's import diversification policy remains in effect, large Japanese specialty stores will not advance into the Korean market en masse as was feared, the report said.

The possibility is also very low for foreign commodity wholesalers to make inroads into Korea, as the foreigners land law prohibits the ownership of land by joint ventures where the foreign equity share is 50 percent or more, or by pure foreign corporate bodies.

When Taiwan's distribution market was opened in 1986, Japanese firms actively invested in department stores, supermarkets and electronic appliance stores, but Taiwanese firms did not collapse and sales have expanded steadily since the opening, the report said.

As the nation's distribution market was being opened on a gradual basis since 1984, the report said, there would be few ill effects. Even if the on-going Uruguay Round trade talks are settled, Korea's distribution market opening schedule will be little affected, it said.

The government should greatly ease restrictions on the size and number of stores from 1993, as planned, and should revise distribution-related laws and regulations in a way expediting free competition among distribution firms, the report said.

To modernize the domestic distribution market, the government should work out comprehensive plans to build and operate mammoth distribution complexes and should improve the administrative procedures related to value added tax.

Korean firms should stop making efforts to extend government protection and positively prepare themselves for market opening with low prices and high quality, the report advised.

Energy Ministry Notes Surge in Crude Oil Imports

SK0502075792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0628 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea bought 399 million barrels of crude oil worth 7,835 million U.S. dollars last year, up 29.5 percent and 21.3 percent, respectively, from 1990, the Energy and Resources Ministry said Wednesday.

Import prices averaged 18.55 dollars a barrel, down 1.44 dollars from a year earlier.

The ministry attributed the increase to the industry's expansion of oil-processing capacities which rose 34.3 percent from 1990 to 412.79 million barrels.

Saudi Arabia, the top crude oil supplier, shipped 366,000 barrels a day, or 33.5 percent of the total imports. It was followed by Iran, supplying 145,000 dollars a day and Oman, 140,000 barrels.

The Middle East countries supplied 294.36 million barrels, or 73.7 percent, down 0.6 percentage point from 1990. Southeast Asia accounted for 82.7 million barrels, or 20.7 percent, down 0.4 percentage point. America and Africa comprised 22.25 million barrels, or 5.6 percent, up 0.2 percentage point.

Conglomerates Seek Control of Foreign Companies

SK0702051992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0450 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—An increasing number of South Korean conglomerates, struggling with trade barriers and technological problems, are trying to gain control of foreign companies, securities sources said Friday.

Daewoo, Hyundai and Lucky are among the the business groups, currently involved in about 50 takeover bids, a steep increase from only three for last year, the sources said.

They said the groups were mostly targeting precision [as received], chemical, electronics, automobile parts and other technology-oriented firms and that most of the takeovers would cost between 5 million and 10 million U.S. dollars.

The groups believe that buying foreign concerns will help their technology development and increase brand awareness in foreign markets.

The conglomerates are expected to increase overseas floatation of stocks to finance their takeovers, they said.

Printers Increase Foreign Business by 18 Percent

SK0702052692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0454 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (YONHAP)—South Korean printers did 85.88 million U.S. dollars of business abroad last year, up 18.45 percent from a year earlier, the Korea Federation of Printing Industry Cooperatives said Friday.

Tong-a Publishing Co. was first for the second year running with 19.9 percent of export turnover, or 17.13 million dollars.

The growth rate was relatively small compared with the annual 40-percent increase during the 1980s.

The subdued results were due to the overall business slump, rises in production costs, a lack of new skills and insufficient overseas market information, the federation said.

Tong-a, which also enjoyed the honor of top exporter in 1990, recorded a growth rate of 70.2 percent last year over 1990, printing 10 million dollars of materials for customers in the United States and 7 million dollars of school textbooks for publishers in Yemen.

Consortium To Establish Ethanol Plant in Vietnam

SK0702085292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—A Korean consortium will build an ethanol plant with an annual production capacity of 40,000 kiloliters near Ho Chi Minh City or Qui Nhon city in a joint venture with Vietnamese firms, a Hyundai official said Friday.

He said the consortium of Hyundai Corp. and four other companies would send officials to Vietnam this month to conduct a field survey and discuss the concrete terms of the joint venture.

The Korean and Vietnamese partners in the 20 million-U.S.-dollar project would share the equity in a ratio of 70-to-30, he said.

National Statistics Office Reports Findings

SK0602125292 Seoul YONHAP in English 1009 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea was the 12th largest trader in the world and it was in the top 10 in the production of rice, petrochemicals, cement, steel, electronic goods, automobiles and vessels in 1990.

The rate of employment among graduates of institutes of higher education was high when compared with Japan, Germany, Britain and France, but the proportion of physicians in the general population was still relatively low.

Korea led the world in the rates of death caused by traffic accidents, hepatitis and tuberculosis. It came in second in deaths by stomach cancer, chronic hepatitis and diseases related to high blood pressure.

Except for small city states like Singapore and small island nations, Korea's population density was third in the world after Bangladesh and Taiwan and the size of its population was 23rd.

These are some of the findings reported Thursday by the National Statistical Office, which tried to draw a profile of Korea as reflected in the world in 1990. Its study was based on United Nations statistics and research materials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Population, area

—Population: Korea's population stood at 42,869,000, or 0.8 percent of the world population of 5,292,195,000. It placed Korea 23rd. By the year 2020, the population will increase to 50,578,000, or 0.6 percent of the world total, with the number of people above the age of 65 rising from the present 4.7 percent of the population to 13.1 percent.

—Area: South Korea covers 99,000 square kilometers, or 0.07 percent of the global land mass of 135,791,000 square kilometers.

—Birth rate: Korea produced 15.6 babies per 1,000 people, compared with 15.9 in the United States, 10.1 in Japan, 13.6 in Britain, 13.8 in France.

—Infant mortality: 12.8 per 1,000 babies died within a year of birth, compared with 84 for Indonesia, 39.9 for Thailand.

—Urbanization: Korea's city-dwelling population was 74.4 percent of the total, compared with a world average of 45.2 percent and 72.6 percent for advanced countries.

Industry

—Rice production: 7.78 million tons in 1990, which is 10th in the world after China, India, Indonesia and Bangladesh. Production per hectare was 6,259kg, 7th in the world.

—Fishing: 2.72 million tons in 1988, placing Korea 7th after Japan, Russia, China and the United States. Third in per capita consumption of sea products at 49.6 kg.

—Synthetic fiber: The 4th largest producer of synthetic fiber with 1.18 million tons in 1989, 8.1 percent of global production. The 13th largest maker of ethylene with 608,900 tons.

—Cement, steel: Ranked 7th, Korea produced 30.47 million tons in 1989 with per capita consumption of 666 kg. Steel production was 23.12 million tons, 3 percent of global output, 7th biggest producer. Per capita consumption was 433 kg in 1989.

—Electronics: Manufacturing totaled 24.1 billion dollars, 3.8 percent of world production. 6th with a relatively high production rate of 9.4 percent for home appliances.

—Automobiles: 1.32 million cars made, 10th after Japan, the United States, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Canada, Russia and England. There were 2.66 million cars on the road in 1989, 25th in the world. Passenger car production is 9th in the world and ownership 30th. There were 7.7 people per vehicle in October last year, 41st in the world, and 16.7 people per passenger car, ranking 48th.

—Ships: Korea owned 7.83 million tons of commercial ships in 1989, 12th following Liberia, Panama and Japan. Shipbuilding was 2d after Japan at 3.45 million tons in 1990.

—Electric power: Output in 1988 was 85.46 billion kwh [kilowatt hours], 20th in the world. Atomic-generated power totaled 40.1 billion kwh, making Korea 11th.

—Stock market: Trading volume was 74.61 billion dollars, the 9th largest among 36 bourses. Market capitalization was tallied at 110.3 billion dollars, 16th.

—Insurance: Insurance market was 21.34 billion dollars in 1989, 9th in the world. Per capita insurance premiums were 503.6 dollars, 20th, and life insurance was 412 dollars, 14th.

—Import and export: Total exports, 12th largest in 1990 at 65 billion dollars, imports also 12th at 69.8 billion dollars. Per capita exports 1,472 dollars in 1989, 37th.

Education, public health

—Primary education: As of 1991 there were 4,759,000 students and 138,000 teachers. The student-teacher ratio was 34.5-to-one, which is lower than developing countries but higher than industrialized ones.

—Higher education: As of 1989, 50.2 percent of student-aged men and 24.2 percent of women attend junior colleges or other institutes of higher learning. The average rate of 37.7 percent compares with 30.1 percent in Japan, 31.8 percent in Germany, 22.8 percent in Britain, 59.6 percent in the United States and 62.2 percent in Canada.

—Population per doctor: The ratio of 1,007-to-one as of 1990 compares with 609-to-one in Japan, 539-to-one in Britain, 473-to-one in the United States, and 320-to-one in France. The ratio of people to hospitals runs as high as 429-to-one.

—Mortality by causes: Among the 36 countries whose health conditions are listed in the World Health Annual, mortality by stomach cancer was a high 31.7 per 100,000 in Korea in 1989, second only to Japan, where the ratio was 39.6.

Korea was ranked the first when it came to deaths from liver cancer and tuberculosis. Liver cancer attacked 23.8 people out of every 100,000 and tuberculosis 12.6. Korea also topped the list of countries with deaths from traffic accidents: 31.8 per 100,000.

As for mortality related to chronic liver illnesses and hypertensive diseases, Korea was world No. 2 with the former killing 30 per 100,000 and the latter 37.3.

—Television and telephone supply: As of 1986, Korea had 188 TV sets per 1,000 people. As of 1989, the ratio of telephones to people stood at 33.5-to-100. Telephones increased to 39.8 per 100 people in September 1991.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Announces New Navy, Air Force Chiefs

BK0702143292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Notification No. 13/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, dated 6 February 1992]

[Text] Appointment of Senior Public Servants:

The State Law and Order Restoration Council temporarily appoints the following persons to their respective posts mentioned next to their names from the day they perform their duty:

A. Navy, 3110, Commodore Than Nyunt, chief of staff, Navy, the Ministry of Defense, has been appointed as commander in chief of Navy, the Ministry of Defense

B. Air, 1193, Major General Thein Win, chief of staff, Air, the Ministry of Defense, has been appointed as commander in chief of Air Force, the Ministry of Defense

Signed: Khin Nyunt, Major General, secretary, the State Law and Order Restoration Council

BBC, VOA Accused of Exploiting Rohingya Issue

BK0702095492 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0713 GMT 7 Feb 92

["First part" of article by (Sithu Aung) entitled: "The Inside Story of the Rohingya Fable" from 7 February issue of the WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY]

[Text] Of late the Rohingya fable from the Rakhine State has been invoked in the programs of such broadcasting stations as the BBC and VOA. Actually it is not a new story at all, but a very old and well-worn story which is being dished out by these malicious foreign broadcasting stations in new and fancy packaging.

The BBC and VOA in dishing out this old story have attempted to make it more attractive by fabricating additional scenery and subplots. They [words indistinct] subplots and additionally fabricated scenarios which have been added to the old and very well-worn stories are as follows:

Of the 4.2 million population of Rakhine [Arakan] State, about 3 million are supposed to be Moslems known as Rohingyas. Of these, 1.2 million were supposed to have run away to foreign countries beginning 1942.

During Operation Nagamin of 1978, about 300,000 Moslems were supposed to have fled to Bangladesh. Hundreds were supposed to have died because they were killed by Myanmar [Burmese] troops. In 1991, additional troops were stationed in Rakhine State and Moslems were supposed to have been oppressed. About 20,000 Moslems were supposed to have been forced into work camps and made to do very hard work. They were supposed to have been beaten and tortured. The women folk were supposed to have have been systematically gang raped. The men folk were supposed to have been cruelly massacred. Human bodies were supposed to have been nailed to trees and their limbs were said to have been dismembered. Men were supposed to have been castrated and their organs inserted in their mouths. About 15,000 Moslems were supposed to have been captured for use as human shield by the troops.

These, the Moslems, were supposed to have been forced to walk into minefields laid by the insurgents to clear them. Moslems were supposed to have been locked up in rice godowns [warehouses] and because of this, about 700 were supposed to have died of suffocation. What's more, about 200 were also supposed to have died from malnutrition because it is said they were not fed.

Additionally, it was also said the order had been given for the formation of death squad in Buthidaung and Maungdaw regions, supposedly for killing Moslems. It was also said that about 75,000 troops have been stationed along the Bangladesh border and Moslems were supposedly tortured, murdered, and raped. While Moslem villages were supposedly being put to the torch, Moslem-owned lands were supposedly taken over by Buddhists.

They say that because of such acts the majority of Moslems were supposedly facing starvation and suffering. As a result, the number of refugees who had fled across the border in Bangladesh is supposed in the neighborhood of 70,000. They say that these Myanmar Moslems, no longer able to bear the supposed oppression and atrocities of the Myanmar Tatmadaw [Defense Services], (?have prompted) Rohingya Liberation Guerrilla Group in rebellion. Rohingya refugees are said to be in need of international assistance. It is also said that Moslem nations should provide assistance for Rohinjya liberation to fight against the supposed religious discrimination of the military government. They also said that the so-called problem may be resolved only when the military regime in Myanmar is toppled and when a civilian government comes to power.

In order to accomplish this, it is said that international pressure and blockade should be applied against Myanmar. This should also be done by the United Nations. These are the plots, subplots, scenarios which have been fabricated and created by the BBC and VOA broadcasting stations in their attempt to revive the well-worn fable of the Rohingyas. Their objective—the director and the characters.

The objective of this fable is obvious enough. Having failed in their attempt to agitate, organize, and incite unrest and disturbances among Buddhists who form the majority population in Myanmar by means of encouraging bogus monks to engage in political agitation, they now seek to drive a wedge in between Buddhists and the minority community composed of Moslems. It is also a well-laid plan to slander and lower the prestige of the

Tatmadaw [military]. The purpose is also to propagate disinformation about Myanmar, making it appear that it is oppressing one minority group and exercising religious discrimination so that international opinion would be turned against Myanmar, resulting in international pressure.

It is equally obvious that it is the deliberate attempt to create political instability within Myanmar by causing conflict between Moslems and Buddhists. Finally, it is equally obvious that everything that has been so far done by these broadcasting stations is oriented toward providing some sort of respite to the hardpressed KNU [Karen National Union] insurgent-terrorists. This, they hope, (?may be done) by opening a new front to distract the Tatmadaw by strengthening the Rohingya insurgent-terrorists who are actually Bengalis. These essentially are the objectives of the Rohingya fable.

I do not think we think too much imagination to discover the script writer, choreographer, and director of this Rohingya fable. But just for the record, it is no other than the notorious Ngapwagyi [name of a well-known rascal]—the worldwide bully—who has been as conspicuous as an elephant walking across a paddyfield in all the problems which have been cropping up all over the globe.

The characters in this Rohingya fable include these—Ngapwagyi's adopted son, KNU Nga Mya [derogatory reference to KNU leader], and their company, such as Abdul Razak of the ABMU, which is the All Burma Moslem Union, Nurul Islam of ARIF, known as the Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front, and Yunus of the RSO, known as the Rohingya Solidarity Oganization. These are the characters who play their parts (?each) for them by worldwide bully, Ngapwagyi, in the Rohingya fable. [announcer says the article will be continued tomorrow]

Capture of Another Karen Rebel Stronghold Cited

BK0602150792 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Our defense services personnel in order to crush the insurgents and to wipe them out completely have been claiming victories in their fight against the camps of terrorist insurgents who are performing various destructive activities to antagonize the people.

Thus, after a courageous offensive by the defense force columns from the No. 44 Light Infantry Division [LID], the Yegyaw camp, which is the base of the 250-strong KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgent organization's 101st Battalion and the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] terrorist insurgent organization and is situated on the (Taungyi) riverbanks in Myawadi Township, was successfully captured at 1145 on 4 February.

The defense force columns from the No. 44 LID separated into two attack groups and aproached Yegyaw camp at 0400 on 4 February. They were able to approach the defence perimeter of Yegyaw camp at 0835. From that time onwards the defense force columns were able to penetrate all the eight defense perimeters—six barbed wire fences, one bamboo fence, and one wooden fence—at 1045. After that, the final assault on Yegyaw camp took place and the camp was successfully captured at 1145.

Altogether 28 insurgents were captured dead in the final assault; also seized were a total of 34 assorted arms—one 82-mm mortar, one Browning machine gun, one MG-42 machine gun, one RPG launcher, one 3.5-mm launcher, two carbines, 14 M-16 automatic rifles, two BA-63 automatic rifles, one BA-64 automatic rifle, six M-22 automatic rifles, one BA-72 automatic rifle, two M-79 launchers, one two-in mortar—together with 76 82-mm shells, 94 RPG rockets, 18 3.5-mm rockets, 16,825 assorted rounds of ammunition, eight assorted mines, 72 assorted bombs, 52 assorted huts, and 125 log bunkers.

One officer and one soldier laid down their lives for the country while 16 soldiers, including two officers, were wounded.

Cambodia

U.S. MIA Delegation Concludes Visit 5 Feb

BK0702081592 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0403 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 7 Feb (SPK)—The U.S. delegation exploring American servicemen missing in action in Indochina, led by Lieutenant General Christmas, left Phnom Penh on 5 February after concluding its two-day visit to Cambodia.

Bidding farewell to the delegation were Lt. Gen. Nuon Saret, deputy interior minister and head of the committee searching for MIA servicemen, and Jim Bruno, adviser of the U.S. diplomatic mission to the Supreme National Council.

During its visit to Cambodia, Lt. Gen. Christmas had talks with Cambodian officials in charge of MIA cases and visited the Tuol Sleng museum of genocide and Cheung Ek mass grave.

The U.S. delegation was optimistic about the cooperation between the United States and Cambodia in the search for MIA servicemen, hoping that it would yield positive results.

Prince Sihanouk Visits Kompong Thom 5 Feb

BK0602115592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, at pipal tree planting ceremony in Kompong Thom Province on 5 February—recorded]

[Text] I, Samdech Euv [Prince father] Norodom Sihanouk, would like to pay respects to all venerable monks and salutations to His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP]; excellencies and madams, ladies and gentlemen; and misses, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are very dear to myself and Neak Moneang, my wife.

First of all, I would like to profoundly thank H.E. Chairman Chea Sim of the CPP, who has taken me as his brother. I would like to thank my beloved and highly esteemed brother, who has provided me with this excellent opportunity to meet with the clergy, who are the highest representatives of Buddhism—our national and state religion—in this magnificent province of Kompong Thom. His Excellency has personally accompanied me in my trip by helicopter provided by the State of Cambodia [SOC] to Kompong Thom Province, enabling me—Samdech Euv, Samdech Pa, Samdech Great-grandfather—and Neak Moneang to have the fine opportunity to meet with grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren who have thought of Euv and called on Euv to come to this province as soon as possible. Today I am here to meet all of you in an atmosphere of cordiality as in the previous era—the era of Samdech Euv, the era of the Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's popular socialist party]. I would again like to heartily thank H.E. Chea Sim and other leaders of the CPP and the SOC Government, which is outstandingly headed by H.E. Hun Sen.

I think greatly of the compatriots and children from all walks of life. I equally love all of you who are living everywhere across Cambodia and am very happy to see you living energetically under the most skillful leadership of the CPP and the SOC Government. This makes me think of the era of the Sangkum Reas Niyum, during which I—the then leader—launched, together with you, a crusade in order to restore and maintain 100 percent independence, like a full moon, for our nation. We then achieved this historic success for the nation and motherland in 1953. After the creation of the Sangkum Reas Niyum movement, we joined hands to safeguard independence, territorial integrity, peace, and tranquility for our nation. The move made us become very famous—the whole world, at that time, called Cambodia an oasis of peace. Following the restoration of peace, we continued to join forces to rebuild our nation and to make it prosperous in all fields, including the educational, health, social, economic, communications, and infrastructure sectors. We were unified in building and developing our nation with independence and peace.

Why am I being reflective? Because, to all appearances, the CPP, chaired by H.E. Chea Sim—my highly esteemed brother—and the SOC Government have revived our Cambodia with independence, peace, and national unity and have rebuilt and developed it in all fields. As I have seen in other provinces, particularly in Kompong Thom, our nation has survived and gradually prospered just as in the previous era of Samdech Euv. Now we have Buddhism, our state and national religion, as a shade for all of us. As for other religions, they have also been restored. Rights and freedom have already been returned to the people and all sectors have again begun to develop. The CPP has rendered justice to the Sangkum Reas Niyum era by voluntarily declaring itself linked to the era of Samdech Euv. As all of you and the province's governor, in the name of the CPP and the SOC Government, have said, it has been 21 years or so that we were separated, unable to see each other. But you still have managed to keep Samdech Euv's old photos. When the grandchildren see the earlier photos of Samdech Euv, who was still attractive then, they will, after meeting me now, be astonished, saying: Oh! I thought he looked like in the photo, but when he comes, he appears very weary. Imagine! It has already been 22 years since we were separated, and as Buddhism teaches: Everyone will become old—we will get old and sick, then die in the end. I don't know when I will die because now I am already 70 years old.

It has been 21 years that we have been separated. By the way, some children and grandchildren have wondered why did Euv desert them for 21 years? In fact, I never abandoned all of you. However, as I was a head of state, a number of other states which were independent as our state, wanted every year to promote their relations of friendship with me. So in March 1970—22 years ago—the Republic of France, then headed by President Pompidou, and the Soviet Union, with Mr. Brezhnev as the then president, asked me to visit their countries with a view to strengthening the friendship between our independent Cambodian state and their countries. So I went. However, after my departure, Mr. Lon Nol and Prince Sirimatak and their men, taking the opportunity of my absence from Cambodia, staged a military coup overthrowing me. They accused me of colluding with the communist Vietnamese—at that time, Vietnam had a serious problem. As I have said before, the primary objective of our crusade was to preserve the peace and independence that we historically achieved in 1953.

However, at that time Vietnam was invaded by a group of foreign imperialists and chaos prevailed in the country. The Vietnamese people then rose up and carried out a struggle to wrest back independence and peace for Cambodia. For ourselves, we are Vietnam's neighbor. If we took the position that we were already peaceful and independent and remained indifferent to the hardship and sufferings of the Vietnamese people and the ardent fire that occurred in Vietnam by being unprepared to help Vietnam recover its independence, our attitude is not in the least acceptable to Buddhism, which preaches that we must provide assistance to every sufferer. As for the fire in Vietnam, if our neighbor's house was on fire and we did not help to put it out, then the fire could spread to our home. That being the case, I decided that our Cambodia should help Vietnam. We only provided it with insignificant assistance, not the kind of help that could ruin Cambodia's interests and independence. The Vietnamese only asked to build some infirmaries on our territory because many people were injured in that struggle. So we only helped them in this way. Later, the SOC and CPP also worked in cooperative friendship with Vietnam. There is nothing wrong with this.

Moreover, it is our duty to do whatever we can to safeguard harmony between us. Presently, our policy is to maintain peace with all our neighboring countries with a view to rebuilding our nation—before it was called oasis of peace—toward prosperity, happiness, and development in all fields as in the previous era of Samdech Euv. Peace is indispensable. So to have peace in the country, two conditions must be fulfilled:

1. Solidarity: Peace will come only if we do not harass and kill each other; if we have good relations with and love for one another, and if we reunite. We, Cambodians having the same appearance and deriving from the same race, should avoid conflict among ourselves. We should unite. Peace will come if Cambodians stop fighting each other—there is no more war; we are in peace now—stop nursing hatred for each other and stop attempting to wreak revenge against each other. We should put a halt to this attitude by following Lord Buddha's teachings. It is right that we have stopped. That being the case, we already have a firm foundation for rebuilding our nation.

2. Nevertheless, there is another condition that we have to fulfill: We should do our best to safeguard peace with our neighbors. Therefore, both I and the CPP—my policy and the CPP's policy are identical—will carry out the policy toward Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos, our three neighboring countries, to maintain peace. That is why since I came to be with you on 14 November 1991, I, the CPP, and the SOC Government are implementing this policy of friendship, mutual respect, and respect for one another's independence and integrity toward our neighbors—Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. As a matter of fact, the Thai, Vietnamese, and Lao foreign ministers have officially visited our independent Cambodia one after the other. As for other countries in the world, they have also implemented a policy of friendship with us. As a matter of fact, since Samdech Euv's homecoming, Cambodia's prestige has again been elevated in the international arena. A great many countries have come to establish relations of friendship with us—they have not come empty-handed but with social, economic, health, humanitarian, and communications aid, and so on to assist us in rebuilding our nation and country toward prosperity as before. So it is a good idea for us to strive to maintain peace with our neighbors and the countries the world over. Presently, we do not have a single enemy in the world, only friends. All the countries are our friends. They are respecting our independence and territorial integrity so we are in peace and harmony now. This constitutes our best approach.

The reason I said I am in a reflective mood is because if I take into consideration the past and the present, everything takes on a much more relaxed tone now thanks to the clear-sighted leadership of H.E. Chairman Chea Sim. Good and concrete results have instantly been achieved as I have already told you.

I would like to reiterate that I never deserted you but Lon Nol and Sirimatak took the opportunity of when I was visiting France and the Soviet Union to depose me and said afterward that if you, the prince, return, you will be immediately executed. I was not afraid to die, but to return to the country only to die would have been futile. So I decided to live in exile until now so I could see you. This is why when you see me, I am old now; not a lot of hair is left and it is getting white [chuckle]. However, I am not ill yet; I am still strong, thanks to the power of the [Buddhist] triple jewels, the clergy's wishes, and the merits you keep forwarding to me. These have kept me alive. If I returned just to be killed by Pol Pot and Lon Nol, it would not have been right.

During the Pol Pot era, I lost five children and 14 grandchildren, excluding sons- and daughters-in-law, cousins, uncles, and aunts who have all died; for instance Prince Moniret. I lost five children and 14 grandchildren, killed by Pol Pot's men. My wife also lost an older brother and an older sister, along with many members of their families.

Thus your families and mine have been through the same disaster. We have all suffered and endured hardship. At one time, Pol Pot allowed me to visit you at four or five worksites but I saw that you no longer had freedom and rights. One day I went to a factory in Battambang. Khieu Samphan and others accompanied me. Upon arrival at the factory, some of you, upon seeing me, shouted Long Live Samdech Euv, embraced me, cried, and said I have missed you, I love you, I am still with you. After the visit to the textile factory in Battambang, I did not know what happened to those children.

When Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen won the war and took over our country, those who fled abroad told me that they met refugees who said that those who shouted Long live Samdech Euv, and dared to cry, embrace, and lament to Samdeche Euv were all hacked to death. My children, it was so bitter at that time. I also know about this. Those who love me were punished to death; those who are members of my family were also punished to death. All of us endured this bitterness throughout the past 21 years. It was also very hard under the Lon Nol era; I was separated from you. In the Pol Pot era, I was allowed to return but I did not know you and could not stay with you.

I did not meet you like today in Kompong Thom. In previous months, Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen accompanied me to freely meet you in Kompong Speu, Kandal, Kompong Cham, Battambang, in Phnom Penh City, and so on. Now I am with you in Kompong Thom. I would just like to tell you simply that I did not desert you. I only asked to be with you. When I am old, and die later, I would like to have my corpse cremated on Cambodian soil and a memorial built in Cambodia to not be separated from you and the Cambodian motherland. This is what I would like to inform you.

The United Nations has arrived. H.E. Ataul Karim is heading a small group of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] representatives. In a couple of months larger groups will be coming called UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], to help establish order, safeguard peace, and assist us along the new road called multiparty liberal democracy. That is having freedom and as many parties and newpapers as you desire.

Thus, I would like to again express sincere thanks to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, and H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin, for assisting me to achieve success in the process to build peace and toward establishing liberal democracy under the clear-sighted leadership of the United Nations. Today, ambassadors from mnay countries, including the permanenent members of the UN Security Council, have made efforts to come to Kompong Thom Province accompanying me and, tomorrow, to Stoung District. I will still be with you in Kompong Thom. I will be going to Stoung. Today it is Kompong Thom.

Some officials from the United Nations and diplomats have also come. They wanted to accompany me. Some of their representatives from the United Nations have been stationed here in Kompong Thom to protect you. The other day there was danger for you because of shelling on your villages. The State of Cambodia has asked me to assist in ensuring your safety. I have thus pleaded with UNAMIC, the group preceding UNTAC which is also from the United Nations; those wearing blue berets.

I would like to take this opportunity to also greet UNAMIC and express gratitude to UNAMIC and the United Nations for coming to protect my children as desired by HRH Highness Norodom Sihanouk, H.E. Chea Sim, the CPP, and the SOC Government.

I have nothing else to tell you, my children and grandchildren. Anyway, what we should do now is implement and make the Paris accord successful. I have already talked about this, so now I just want to tell you a bit more. As Kompong Thom Province's governor and chairman of the provincial party committee already mentioned in his eloquent and highly meaningful speech, I have closely worked with the four Cambodian parties, including the CPP of the SOC, with the aim of safeguarding the survival of our country on the basis of security, peace, independence, and territorial integrity as before. By all accounts, we have built this foundation since 23 October 1991. As with the construction of a monastery, first of all we need to erect a solid foundation. As you have said, the primary concern of our ancestors for the construction of the Angkor temple was to reinforce its foundation to sturdily build the temple. Likewise, we need to have a firm foundation to build Cambodia. It is true that we have made a lot of progress and that numerous countries have also come to assist us in our national reconstruction. But we still need UNTAC, which has over 10,000 staff coming in the next couple of months to help us have peace and assist me to reconcile the nation the way it was in the Sangkum era. This is the major task we have to undertake.

Now, I would like conclude my speech here. I don't want to hold you up any longer and it is also time for the venerable clergy to have lunch. By the way, I come here with only good news for you. There is nothing unfortunate or adverse. After my return, I am happy and honored to have seen all of you revive. However, I feel very sorry that you have encountered the extreme bitterness and countless dangers, as the governor already said, since the Lon Nol-Sirimatak and Pol Pot eras. I was extremely worried about your sufferings and hardship during the two eras and felt sad because I was separated from you. Now I am here with you and very pleased to see you revive with freedom under the shade of Buddhism as before. Presently, you are able to rebuild the nation toward progress in all fields under the fine leadership of Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen, the CPP, and the SOC Government. In sum, what I refer to the Paris accord—as I talked about my first crusade in 1953—is independence, peace, and territorial integrity, which constitute a solid foundation for rebuilding our nation toward progress, making it a civilized and developed country. Our nation should be on equal footing with other civilized countries in the world as in the Angkor era when we were in golden glory. And it is correct for the CPP to say that our motherland should be called the motherland of Angkor. National reunification, union, and unity are the best thing. Therefore, we should firmly reinforce the foundation.

The creation of other political parties will not pose any risk to our nation providing the parties abide by our nation's equitable rules of law. But violence should not be used for better or for worse. We should not forget the sage advice of Buddhist monks, the representatives of our nation's religion, that violence does not do any good. So we should practice nonviolence. We should advocate nonviolence and correctly respect our nation's law according to our good traditions. We should follow good traditions. For instance, before this you performed a Buddhist chant to pay tribute to Buddhism and recall its significance. This is a good example to show that if we revive the traditions, the latter will constitute a main foundation for our happiness, prosperity, and reputation.

Before concluding, I wish to say that this is a great honor for me and Neak Moneang, H.E. Chea Sim—chairman of the CPP—and the Buddhist monks to come here to plant the pipal tree from India, the wonderful motherland of Lord Buddha. H.E. Hun Sen has brought in those donated pipal trees representing Buddhism from India. This is clear evidence that religions have already been restored in our Cambodia and that the country is at peace now. Buddhism is a peaceful and non-aggressive religion and the planting of the pipal tree is immensely significant because it is for the happiness and prosperity of you all in Kompong Thom Province in particular and across Cambodia as a whole. Thank you.

I pray that the triple jewels protect the revered and beloved Buddhist monks, H.E. Chairman Chea Sim, the CPP, the SOC Government, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen present as well as those who are in other parts of the country, those who are patriotic living abroad, and great-grandchildren who in 1970 were not yet born but are here now—one of my great-grandchildren holds my hand and calls me Samdech great-grandfather [laughter]. So I wish to greet all my great-grandchildren as well. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. Thank you.

Sihanouk Discusses Environment With UNDP

BK0702062992 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 7—Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] met with his Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk at the royal palace in Phnom Penh on Saturday, 25 January 1992, to express their growing concern about Cambodia's deteriorating natural environment.

In the Paris peace accords signed last October, all four Cambodian parties to the agreement agreed to let the United Nations send a peace-keeping force to Cambodia and to let the UN administer five key ministries prior to democratic elections scheduled for early 1993. With the subsequent loss of foreign aid to the resistance factions and the loss of an estimated 60 million of eastern bloc aid [as received] to the State of Cambodia, all sides have turned to timber exports as the main source of funds for generating operating revenues and paying salaries.

"Rough estimates suggest that current timber exports, both legal and clandestine, are in excess of the country's sustainable timber yield by a factor of four to eight," explained Rajiv Pillay, UNDP's deputy resident representative. "UNDP would like to develop mechanisms in cooperation with the international donor community that will allow a drastic reduction of logging operations to take place, particularly in the export sector. Essentially this could represent an 'environmental cease-fire' if supported by the members of the Supreme National Council and financially by the donor community."

At present, in the State of Cambodia, there are fewer than one forestry employee per 1,000 square kilometers of forest in its eight most heavily-forested provinces.

During the weekend meeting, H.R.H. Prince Sihanouk invited representatives of the four members of the Supreme National Council [SNC] to express their views on the environment. He then endorsed several UNDP proposals to address some of the country's more immediate environmental concerns. UNDP will establish an environmental advisory group that will, among other functions, assist the SNC and the State of Cambodia to assess the development and environmental implications of both assistance and investment proposals. UNDP is also exploring the possibility of working with other donors to establish a Cambodia environment fund for a variety of environmental programmes, including the creation of a forest guard corps.

It is proposed that the World Wide Fund for nature (WWF), one of the world's premier conservation organizations, manage the environmental advisory group and, subject to funding, provide training for a forest guard corps. In its pilot phase, the corps might number about 750 carefully-screened and trained former soldier drawn from the demobilized troops of the three resistance factions and the State of Cambodia. These will be integrated with a larger number of villagers, forestry graduates, and former refugees.

"The demobilization of about 100,000 troops and the return to Cambodia of some 65,000 refugee families from camps in Thailand will pose a significant threat to Cambodia's forests and fertile wetland areas," explained WWF's Indochina programme officer, John Dennis. The guard corps, operating under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Sihanouk, would provide employment for people who would otherwise become wood cutters or land-poor farmers who follow the new logging roads into the forests. The corps could provide a [word indistinct] to monitor a reduction of [word indistinct] under the 'environmental cease-fire.'

Former Leader Pen Sovan Discusses Exile, Return

BK0702034892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0324 GMT 7 Feb 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Takeo, Cambodia, Feb 7 (AFP)—The man whose name meant power in communist Cambodia until he was deposed under the Vietnamese who installed him is alive and well and poised for comeback after 10 years in forced exile.

Pen Sovan, age 55 but looking not a day over 40, was head of Phnom Penh's government, Armed Forces and ruling communist party from 1979 to 1981, when he was taken away to Hanoi for being too independent-minded.

He said he was allowed to return to Cambodia only last week, and gave his first interview in 10 years to AFP on Thursday.

"The majority of the Cambodian people have not forgotten me," he said. "The majority of them love me and respect me, and some of them have already come to tell me so."

Pen Sovan—the only noteworthy Cambodian politician untainted by the current Phnom Penh government's cooperation with the Khmer Rouge in a peace plan ending the civil war—is believed to have widespread support among the Cambodian public.

But asked specifically about his political ambitions and whether he would attempt to run in U.N. elections scheduled for 1993, the charismatic, articulate leader was evasive.

"It's up to the people of Cambodia," he said. "If the people have confidence in me, I cannot escape this."

"According to my idea, the government is a boat and the people are the water, and if there is no water the boat cannot go forward," he said. "If there is no water, I cannot be the captain."

The reason Pen Sovan was unexpectedly deposed has been a subject of academic speculation for a decade.

"They (Phnom Penh politicians) sent me to Hanoi because I was trying to implement free-market economic reforms in contrast with the communist system," he explained. "Now they think my leadership at that time was right and they allowed me to come back."

The Phnom Penh government said in October 1991 that Pen Sovan had been a political prisoner in Hanoi, but the former leader says he never went to jail.

"They didn't really arrest me, but just took away my posts," he said.

He said he spent the last 10 years with his family in a "moderate-sized" house in Hanoi following world events on his shortwave radio, reading economic and political theory and playing tennis twice a day.

"They asked me to think about whether what I did was right or wrong, and now they know my ideas were correct," he said.

The Phnom Penh government embraced free-market economic reforms and abandoned its communist ideology last year.

Pen Sovan emphasized that it was not Vietnamese authorities who kept him in Hanoi all these years, but Cambodian authorities who kept him away.

"It was not the decision of Vietnamese. It was the decision of Cambodians," he said.

"They decided to kick me out, and now if they want me to come back (into the government) they have to decide that," he said.

Twice during the decade, Phnom Penh authorities said Pen Sovan was near death, once from poisoning and another time due to a paralyzing stroke.

"This is not true. My health has been very good for the last 10 years," Pen Sovan said, adding that he heard the news of his demise on the radio one day [as received] before going to play tennis.

The two men who now hold Pen Sovan's former positions—ruling party president Chea Sim and Prime Minister Hun Sen—were divided on whether to allow him back, he said.

While Chea Sim agreed, "Hun Sen is a little hesitant... and he is still waiting to see my activity," the former leader said.

Pen Sovan said he was travelling in Battambang and Pursat Provinces in December 1981 when a committee he called the "political party's general office" drafted an indictment. He did not say who was the head of the committee.

The indictment said "Pen Sovan decides everything by himself, and we now need to decide for ourselves," the former leader recounted, detailing even the exact hour of his return from the provinces. Upon his return, he found his positions taken away and had to leave for Hanoi, he said.

For the moment he is living in a modest house given to him by authorities in his home province's capital 75 kilometers (47 mile) from Phnom Penh, but he indicated he might move closer to the center of power.

Hor Namhong Meets Philippine Special Envoy 3 Feb

BK0702015692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 3 February at the Foreign Ministry, His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, received in audience H.E. Josue Villa, special envoy of the Republic of Philippines to Cambodia.

At the meeting, H.E. Hor Namhong spoke about the endeavor of the party and Government of the SOC in the search for peace through political means with a view to quickly ending the war, thus bringing about genuine security and peace for the people. He stressed that as always, the SOC side has abided by the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord 100 percent.

For his part, H.E. Josue Villa expressed his thanks and pledged to strive to perform and make his valuable task in Cambodia a success.

CPP Greets CPV on 62d Fdunding Anniversary

BK0502004092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Feb 92

["Message of Greetings" from the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee on the 62d founding anniversary of the CPV; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of the CPP Central Committee, we would like to extend to the CPV Central Committee and all party leaders the warmest greetings on the CPV's 62d founding anniversary.

During the past 62 years the CPV has led the Vietnamese people to surmount all manner of difficulties, achieving brilliant successes in the process of reunifying and rebuilding a Vietnam with independence, freedom, and prosperity.

The CPP enthusiastically welcomes every success scored by the Vietnamese party and people. The CPP firmly believes that despite regional and international changes and although faced with existing hardship, the Vietnamese people will certainly be crowned with new and still greater successes in the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the CPV Seventh Congress.

May the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries' parties and peoples further develop.

Indonesia

U.S. Textile Agreement Extended Two Years

BK0702015292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] An Indonesian-U.S. agreement on textiles and textile products will be extended for another two years until 1994, while its validity will considerably depend on the developments of GATT talks within the framework of the Uruguay round. This was one of the results of the three-day bilateral trade negotiations in Nusa Dua, Bali explained by Indonesian chief delegate Kamaruzzaman al-Gamar during a press conference yesterday evening. He said that the bilateral trade agreement would be valid from 1 July 1992 until 30 June 1994.

Daily Hails 1992 ASEAN Summit Declaration

BK0702024192 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 29 Jan 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The 1992 Singapore Declaration"]

[Text] ASEAN has eventually managed to respond creatively and make dynamic adjustments to various rapid global changes which have in turn brought about both political and economic uncertainties. This was reflected in the 1992 Singapore Declaration, a framework agreement on enhancing ASEAN's economic cooperation, and an agreement on the common effective preferential tariffs [CEPT] as a step toward the ASEAN free trade area [AFTA] which were issued at the fourth ASEAN summit in Singapore.

The outcome of the fourth ASEAN summit seemed to be concrete and reflected the maturity, readiness, and clear direction of ASEAN. Thus, proposals for enhancing economic cooperation and establishing the free trade area are no longer simply symbolic or rhetorical.

The 1992 Singapore Declaration on security and political cooperation can be seen as an attempt to overcome various obstacles that can affect or damage ASEAN's cohesion—existing bilateral disputes between its fellow members, perceptions about external threats, and economic competition.

In this regard, ASEAN's approach to global changes through the ZOPFAN [zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality] concept appears to have remained valid and relevant. The basic framework of regional security embodied in the ASEAN Declaration of Concord several years ago continues to be maintained.

Apparently, the presence or absence of foreign (U.S.) military forces in this region was not the main topic of discussions. Obviously, there have been growing trends in ASEAN toward abandoning an ambivalent stand on the presence of foreign military bases in Southeast Asia. During the summit, the Philippines apparently no longer questioned U.S. military facilities in Singapore.

The declaration also stipulates that ASEAN will seek ways to involve member countries in new areas of security cooperation. In addition, ASEAN will establish closer relations with Indochinese countries on the basis of friendship and cooperation after the Cambodian issue is settled. The fourth ASEAN summit agreed to allow all Southeast Asian countries to join the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation within a larger framework covering all of Southeast Asia. In this regard, ASEAN will seek the UN recognition of this treaty through a proper resolution. In addition, ASEAN will also intensify its external dialogues on security and political issues through the existing channel—the ASEAN post-ministerial conference (PMC).

In addition to security and political cooperation and a review of external relations, the 1992 Singapore Declaration, which was jointly signed by ASEAN heads of government, also covers functional areas of the ASEAN cooperation and the restructuring of the ASEAN institution.

Of no less importance are agreements on enhancing economic cooperation and on the CEPT as a step toward the free trade area.

With a population of about 350 million, the region has a potentially huge market share. The CEPT can be used as the main mechanism to achieve the free trade area within a maximum period of 15 years beginning 1 January 1993. The tariffs are to be eventually reduced to between 0 and 5 percent. In this regard, 15 groups of commodities have been included in the CEPT arrangements.

The volume of trade between Indonesia and other ASEAN countries, which represents 16 percent of our total foreign trade, has already neared that of our trade with Japan—20-25 percent—and has even equalled ours with the United States (16 percent) and Europe (15-16 percent).

ASEAN will also increase investments and promote a complementary industrial network by taking innovative steps.

There is something new. The leaders agreed to enhance the understanding of ASEAN through school and university curricula. Exchanges of junior and senior secondary school students and information about the activities of non-governmental organizations are also something new in the ASEAN cooperation.

We can say that the fourth ASEAN summit managed to make strategic changes in response to global changes and the most important thing now is the political will to concretize various agreements which have until now been simply rhetorical.

Rebel Leader May Surrender; Hiding Place Located

BK0602120692 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 31 Jan 92 p 12

[Text] Dili (JP): A security official here says the leader of the FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] separatist group, Xanana Gusmao, will soon surrender to the government, following a confession by Gusmao's deputy who was arrested by members of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) last week.

The official's statement was confirmed yesterday [30 Jan] when the local state-run station (RRI) [Radio Republik Indonesia] broadcast that the security troops had found Gusmao's hiding place and that the rebel leader, currently in poor health, would soon give himself up.

Gusmao's deputy, Jose de Coasta, told security officials that before his arrest on January 23 he had been moving freely around Dili, the capital of East Timor, aided by 40 FRETILIN members who worked at the provincial government's office.

"Many believe that if Gusmao really turns himself to ABRI, it will be the end of FRETILIN," said the official who preferred anonymity.

FRETILIN has launched armed rebellions against the Indonesian Government, since East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, integrated itself into Indonesia in 1976. East Timor is now Indonesia's 27th province.

ABRI has blamed the FRETILIN for instigating the November 12 riot in which some 50 East Timorese were killed in a clash with security troops.

Meanwhile, a lecturer at the University of East Timor yesterday confirmed the defection of an East Timorese student to Portugal last August when he was in Toronto during an exchange visit program between Indonesian and Canadian students.

"The defector, Jose Mario Luis Guteres, 20, asked Portugal for political asylum after he ran away from the group of Indonesian students who were on a trip to Toronto under the students' exchange visit program," the lecturer told JAKARTA POST.

In a related development, East Timor's legislative council, Guilherme Dos Santos, told the POST on Wednesday [29 January] that the government should detain and interrogate 220 East Timorese students who had asked U.S. President Bush to send forces to the province.

Santos said the students sent letters to President Bush on May 13 and November 18 of last year, asking his help to drive the Indonesian troops away from East Timor in the same way the U.S. forces had pushed back the Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait.

"These students were day-dreaming. What they asked is preposterous," Santo said, stressing that the East Timor case was completely different from Kuwait which was invaded by Iraqi soldiers prior to the outbreak of the Gulf War.

Sutrisno Warns Portuguese Ship on Illegal Entry

BK0602095092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 28 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno warns a Portuguese ship planning to sail to East Timor against illegal entry into Indonesian waters.

"If they only want to pass through Indonesian waters and obtain a government permit to land that will be all right. But if this requirement is violated, action will be taken, " Try told JAVA POST SUNDAY.

He said the Armed Forces were ready to respond to any threats and disturbances in all corners of the country.

Try dismissed as "foolish" and "cheap" the plan by FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] activists to bring the "LUSITANIA EXPRESS" car ferry to the East Timor capital of Dili.

Dili was the site of a bloody incident in which troops clashed with anti-Indonesia demonstrators killing about 50 people on November 12. East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, integrated into Indonesia in 1976.

"It is a foolish and cheap action," Try said about the voyage planned to carry some 100 students and journalists from around the world to lay a wreath of flowers in the city's cemetery.

"Don't let us be lured into psychological warfare. [words indistinct] and freedoms of neighbors, irrespective of their size and strength," he said.

His remarks caused some of those attending the opening ceremony to raise their eyebrows. [as published]

Brunei, a rich tiny oil sultanate with a population of only 27,000, joined ASEAN in 1984 after it gained independence from Britain.

Sultan Bolkiah, however, said he was confident that ASEAN countries would abide by the principles of peace and good, friendly relations with neighboring countries and other nations in the world. [as published]

Laos

Greetings Sent for CPV Founding Anniversary

BK0602124492 Vientiane KPL in English 0930 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 6 (KPL)— The Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee (LPRP CC) has recently sent a telegram of greetings to the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPV CC) on the occasion of the 62d founding anniversary of the CPV.

Since its establishment on February 3, 1930, the telegram said, the CPV has ever led the Vietnamese people and attached itself to them to overcome numerous difficulties, thus obtaining nice achievements for the country. Now the CPV has conducted the policy of renovation with initial success.

The LPRP welcomed the achievements the Vietnamese people have scored in advancing the Socialist Republic of Vietnam gradually towards prosperity, the telegram said.

The LPRP CC were confident that the traditional ties of friendship, special solidarity and all-round cooperation between the two parties and peoples will increasingly grow. It also wished the CPV and the Vietnamese people success in realising the resolution of the CPV's seventh congress.

Military Committee Meets Thai Counterparts

BK0702020892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao Joint Military Committees held their monthly meeting, hosted by the Thai side, in Na Haeo District of Thailand's Loei Province. Heading the Lao side at the meeting was Colonel Phommachak Soutthisan, head of the Lao-Thai Joint Military Committee, and Samroeng Chanthalekha, head of the Thai-Lao Joint Military Committee. The meeting was also attended by both Lao and Thai officials concerned.

The Lao side proposed that the Thai side cooperate in suppressing the Lao rebels in exile and armed bad elements as stipulated in the agreement signed earlier by the two committees. The Thai side agreed with the proposal to help prevent the Lao rebels and armed bad elements from disturbing the Lao and Thai peoples.

The Lao side will host the next monthly meeting in March in Hatsaifong District of Vientiane Province.

The Thai side proposed the inspection of the demilitarized zones as deemed appropriate by the Lao side. During the meeting, the two sides informed each other about the situation concerning trade and contacts between the Lao and Thai peoples along the common border and noted that there had not been any problem in this regard.

More Refugess Return Home From Thailand

BK0602134892 Vientiane KPL in English 0936 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 6 (KPL)— Some 16 families of 47 Lao refugees in Napho Camp of Thai Nakhon Phanom Province have recently been welcomed home in Savannakhet Province.

Now the returnees have settled in the new villages arranged with the UNHCR's [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] aid in Outhoumphon District, about 50 km north of Savannakhet town.

Officials Pay New Year Visit to Chinese Envoy

BK0602124692 Vientiane KPL in English 0933 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 6 (KPL)—Representatives of Lao ministries and organisations, on Feb. 3-4, visited Mr. Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and pleniptentiary of the People's Republic of China to Laos and Chinese staff at the embassy here on the occasion of the Chinese traditional New Year.

The Lao officials and the Chinese ambassador wished each other prosperity, good health and success. They further wished friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between Laos and China developed [as received].

Among the Lao senior officials going wishing the Chinese ambassador were Mr. Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy foreign minister, and Mr. Himmakon Manotham, acting president of the Laos-China Friendship Association.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Receives French Delegation

BK0602135092 Vientiane KPL in English 0851 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 6 (KPL)—President of the People's Supreme Assembly (PSA), Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavan, granted here yesterday an audience to Mr. Jean Michel Boucheron, chairman of the French Parliamentary Commission for National Defence and Armed Forces, who is on a visit here between 4-6 February 1992.

On this occasion, Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed congratulations over the visit, widening and strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries as well as between the two National Assemblies of Laos and France.

Earlier, the French delegation had paid a courtesy call on Mr. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, vice prime minister and minister of economy, planning and finance; met with Mr. Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defence; held a meeting with Dr. Bounmi Papphavong, PSA standing committee member and head of the PSA Foreign Relations Commission; and called on Mr. Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister for foreign affairs.

The visiting French delegation also toured some economic and cultural places in Vientiane Prefecture and Luang Prabang northern Laos.

The French delegation leaves here today.

Philippines

Senate Ratifies Final Bases Conversion Bill

HK0702025492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 Feb 92 p 3

[By Johanna Son and Bert Castro]

[Text] The Senate yesterday ratified the final version of the base conversion bill, which expands the number of special economic zones in the baselands to five.

The measure now goes to the Palace, which objects to some parts of the bill, specially that designating Olongapo City Mayor Richard Gordon as transition head of the Subic zone.

The bill's passage, coming five months after the Senate rejection of a new RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. bases agreement, redeemed the promise made by the Senate leadership.

The original Senate version created only two economic zones for Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, to be handled by a mother body called the Base Conversion Development Authority [BCDA].

But after much political bargaining, the bicameral conference committee agreed to authorize the President to proclaim three more zones for Wallace Air Station in San Fernando, La Union; Camp John Hay in Baguio City and in Hermosa, Morong, Dinalupihan, Castillejos and San Marcelino in Bataan. [sentence as published]

Shahani [as published] said the zones would hopefully play different roles in one economic network, with Subic focusing on ship repair, John Hay on tourism and Wallace on communications.

Other changes in the bill include:

—Reduction of the minimum investment needed to put up a business in the Subic zone from $500,000 to $250,000.

—Making mandatory the appointment of the Olongapo City mayor as chairman and administrator of the Subic authority for the first year.

—Allowing the BCDA, with a five-year lifespan, to do a fast-track sale of military camp lands six months after the bill is approved.

—Providing that 50% of the proceeds from the sale of military lands will go to conversion plans, 30% to the Armed Forces and 17% to housing schemes.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner gave the government a shred of hope of owning the Subic drydocks by saying the U.S. would "try to balance your needs and our needs in coming up with the right answer."

Earlier, Washington announced its intention to remove the drydocks and transfer it to other U.S. bases.

Speaking before a large group of businessmen and civic leaders during the monthly meeting of the Rotary Club Makati West at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Wisner said the drydocks "will keep the American navy working afloat and functioning elsewhere in the world."

But he added that the U.S. would "listen to (the Philippine government)" on the advisability of abandoning its plan to dismantle the drydock complex.

He told his audience the government would have "some very hard thinking to do so as how to use [as published] the Subic drydocks."

The drydocks, Wisner said, was considered by law as government property, whose removal or retention in Subic would be determined by several government agencies such as the defense department.

Wisner occasionally sounded pessimistic but was suddenly optimistic in his speech about the future of the drydocks.

At one point in his answer to queries during the open forum, Wisner said: "If there is a need for properties (like the drydocks) elsewhere, it has got to be used" or removed.

But he hastened to add that this would be done "in the spirit of our relationship and certainly in the spirit of our mutual defense traty of 1952."

The drydocks can be used by the Philippine government for commercial repair of ships of other countries, including the U.S.

The American ambassador also assured the Filipino people of his nation's continuing cooperation.

He said he expected a new relationship to grow between the U.S. and the Philippines, citing the former's 1993 budget, giving the archipelagic state $200 million in assistance for infrastructure and other development needs.

Wisner said the relationship would no longer be anchored on military bases but on economic and development assistance.

He also urged the businessmen "to move out aggressively and find partnership with the government" in converting Subic into a good business venture.

Ambassador To Ask U.S for Conversion Funding

HK0702121892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Philippines, during a visit by Ambassador Alejandro Melchor to the United States, is scheduled to ask the U.S. Government for funding for the development of Subic Naval Base. Here is Rey Arquiza of DZRH Unit No. 20 for details:

[Begin recording] [Arquiza] Former Ambassador Alejandro Melchor, the presidential adviser on the Bases Conversion Program, is scheduled to leave for the United States this afternoon in order to ask American businessmen for help in developing Subic Naval Base as a freeport.

According to sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Melchor will also be talking to U.S. officials in Washington to discuss the acquisition of several facilities at Subic Naval Base. [passage omitted]

The Philippines is interested in acquiring one of the three floating dry docks at Subic Naval Base and this would be one of Melchor's primary objectives in Washington.

The Americans are scheduled to withdraw from Subic this coming June.

U.S. Aid Cut Said 'Response to Reality'

HK0702023592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Feb 92 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Response to Reality"]

[Text] Well ahead of Valentine's Day, the nation was again reminded of the truth in that corny and much-abused quote, "Love is blind." Home-grown lovers of the United States and the American way simply can't find fault with President Bush's decision to cut to the bone U.S. financial assistance to the Philippines and the U.S. Navy's announcement that it would no longer accept Filipino recruits. It was all the fault of the 12 senators who rejected a new base treaty with the U.S. they say. They had displeased the Great White Father and brought down his wrath on the entire Filipino people.

Not too surprisingly, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus wants to lead the mob that would lynch the Senate's Magnificent 12 to appease an angry god. Said he: "If the treaty had been ratified, there would have been commitments to which we could refer. But now there are no more commitments so it is a completely unilateral situation."

Such a knee-jerk response was apparently inspired by interpretations provided by U.S. media. The Associated Press, for instance, somewhat gleefully lumped the Philippines with Pakistan as major "losers" in the aid derby, as it noted it would receive only half of what it got in 1991. It went on to suggest a link between the reduction and the treaty's rejection.

All this is bunk. It ignores present-day realities and the history of RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. relations, including the bases negotiations.

And what are these realities?

First, the U.S. government is bankrupt: this year alone, the budget deficit is expected to reach $399 billion. Second and as a consequence of the first, U.S. officials are under intense pressure from the American public to narrow the budget gap. Third, the end of the Cold War makes it more difficult for U.S. officials to justify massive expenditures for defense and deployment of U.S. forces abroad. Fourth, the disintegration of the Soviet Union has created 15 new states pleading for U.S. assistance in addition to the new democracies in Eastern and Central Europe. Fifth, the U.S. economy is in a recession and Americans are questioning the prudence of helping others before themselves.

When Manglapus and other Filipinos of his ilk speak of U.S. retaliation, they are feigning ignorance of the situation in the U.S. and the world. Similarly he doesn't seem to remember that during the bases talks, U.S. negotiators flatly refused to put in black and white their promised assistance, insisting on their President's "best efforts" to secure it from Congress. And he completely ignores the U.S. record of going back on its pledges, some of which he had himself secured from American officials.

In their selective amnesia, Manglapus and others in the pro-bases sector likewise forget another significant detail in the proposed treaty. The total compensation offered by U.S. negotiators was $203 million a year, everything thrown in. Now Bush wants to give $235 million in fiscal year 1993. It doesn't take a genius to tell which is a better deal for the Philippines.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon was right in saying of the reduced level of U.S. assistance: "It is for us Filipinos to live with that and be able to stand on our own." For now, all the recriminations and the tears would not bring the U.S. back to Clark Air Base or keep them from leaving Subic Naval Base.

As with others who worship at America's feet, Manglapus would be doing both nations a service if he devoted his time to healing the wounds that were opened in the battle over the bases. America doesn't look lovely being painted like a vengeful god.

Aquino Reiterates Support for Ramos Candidacy

HK0702110292

[Editorial Report] Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog at 0935 GMT on 7 February carries live coverage of a speech by Philippine President Corazon Aquino at the "University of Life" auditorium in Manila.

Aquino begins her address by recalling the events of six years ago and asserts that her victory was due not to the efforts of any political party but to support from the

Filipino people. On Fidel Ramos' contribution to foiling coup attempts during her term of office and her reasons for endorsing his candidacy she says:

"All I can say is this; if it were not for Eddie Ramos, the first coup attempt at the Manila Hotel would have ended our democracy and I would probably be in jail now. So, we owe Eddie Ramos a great debt of gratitude. It is true that we were able to restore democracy; but it was he who helped me in nurturing this democracy."

Answering criticism of Ramos' role during the Marcos' era, Aquino says: Some ask me: Where was Eddie Ramos during the time of martial law? It is true that we did not have Eddie Ramos with us during those times." Aquino then quotes a parable from St. Matthew's gospel and says: "It must have been the Lord's will to reserve Eddie for the eleventh hour. If Eddie Ramos had not arrived at the eleventh hour, we still may not have our democracy. So, even if he was late, because he is good, let us just accept him because it was simply necessary for him to arrive at the eleventh hour in order to restore this democracy."

Aquino concludes her speech by lauding individual senators, congressmen, and government officials including Solicitor General Chavez; ambassador to the U.S., Romero; and former Press Secretary Buddy Gomez.

The speech ends at 0952 GMT.

Study Urges Continued Nuclear Plant Loans

HK0702022892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 7 Feb 92 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] The suspension of payments on the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP] loans would constitute default and cross defaults on the country's foreign loans and subsequently trigger a financial crisis more serious than what occurred in 1983-85.

This grim scenario was pictured in a paper released by the Department of Finance to newsmen yesterday following the continued call in Congress for the nonpayment of the BNPP debts despite President Aquino's veto when she signed the General Appropriations Act for 1992, amounting to P194.8 billion [Philippine pesos], last month.

Senate Majority Leader Alberto Romulo called on his colleagues Tuesday to override the presidential veto on the debt cap provision and the suspension of payments on the BNPP debts.

But the finance department paper warned, "Failure to pay principal or interest on the BNPP loans constitutes an event of default on the NPC loans... There will be negative effects on investments, trade and reemergence of capital flight."

BNPP debt service payments under the 1992 budget include P3.5 billion ($133 million) in principal and P2.1 billion ($79 million) in interest.

Data show that outstanding BNPP debts as of end-1991 stood at $1.097 billion, of which $902.9 million in principal and $169.6 million in interest are owed to foreign creditors while $24.1 million is owed to domestic lenders.

In the event of default, the paper said, foreign bank creditors who were party to the new money and restructuring agreements since 1985 would have the right to require the Philippines to accelerate payments on all loans.

As a result, $11 billion in restructured commercial debts will immediately fall due, it added.

Further, it said the foreign banks could seize Philippine assets for payment and set off Philippine government deposits for matured obligations, aside from the country being liable for lawsuits.

For the U.S. Export-Import Bank and other official loans, non-payment of the BNPP debts will also trigger cross default clauses in other official credits, possibly including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The country's economic stabilization program with the IMF, which itself is in limbo due to the legislature's inaction on tax reform measures, will be totally canceled.

Official loans on project and program loans, estimated at P42 billion for 1992, will also be suspended and coroliarily hamper the government's infrastructure and development projects and programs.

Already, multilateral and bilateral creditors are feared to have reduced interest in providing additional economic aid to the Philippines. President Bush, for instance, has called for a 50 percent cut in Washington's economic aid to Manila, apparently as a retaliation to the rejection by the Philippine Senate of a new bases treaty last September.

The U.S. government may scrap altogether the granting of economic aid to the Philippines in case the BNPP debts are not honored. "Under U.S. law, if a country stops paying on obligations to U.S. companies, it is illegal for the U.S. government to continue appropriating aid to that country," the finance paper underscored.

It also said foreign banks participating in the $3-billion revolving trade facility can stop re-depositing with the Central Bank [CB] in the event of a cross default. As a result, a drastic fall in import letters of credit opened would occur while the CB's $4.6 billion gross international reserves would be jeopardized.

The current liberalization program in the foreign exchange policy will be suspended because of these developments, it also warned.

Military May Monitor Voter Registrations

HK0702054692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 Feb 92 p 1

[By Butch Francisco]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has warned that it will put under its control, meaning possibly sending in the military, places where the registration of voters has been marred or is in danger of being marred by cheating or any other means to subvert it.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod issued the warning yesterday in particular to politicians playing the old "flying registrant" trick of bribing people to register in as many precincts as possible to enable them to vote as many times.

"We won't allow a few people to put the commission in mockery and the elections in jeopardy," declared Monsod.

He said the Comelec would not hesitate to invalidate the registration wherever it had been compromised. It would not matter, he said, if the Comelec had to hold a special registration again and again.

"Magpatagalan tayo... matira ang matibay [Let's take our time... the righteous will endure]."

Monsod's warning had been prompted by evident largescale cheating in Metro Manila, whose voters' list, after the regular registration on Feb 1, showed improbable numbers. In three cities and four towns there, for instance, seven to eight out of every 10 people were listed as voters, exceeding the credible five.

The lists for Makati, the most incredible case, and Quezon City have been invalidated, and the cases in Manila, Pasay City, San Juan, Mandaluyong and Paranaque were yesterday still being investigated.

A special registration has been scheduled for Feb 29 and March 1, this time under tight Comelec supervision and in certain places with the military standing by for Comelec orders to move in where necessary. The election commissioners had met the other day with military officials for arrangements.

Yesterday, the Comelec also reminded the media and the politicians and their supporters that the ban on political advertisements would go into effect tomorrow. Violators face any or all of the following penalties: disfranchisement, disqualification from public office, fines and imprisonment.

A further reminder concerned campaign T-shirts and other traditionally popular propaganda materials.

The Election Code provides that it is unlawful for any person "to purchase, manufacture, request, distribute or accept electoral propaganda gadgets, such as pens, lighters, fans of whatever nature, flashlights, athletic goods or materials, wallets, shirts, hats, bandanas, matches, cigarettes and the like, except that campaign supporters accompanying a candidate shall be allowed to wear hats and/or T-shirts advertising the candidate."

New Eastern Visayas National Police Chief Named

HK0702055292 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Feb 92 p 8

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Tacloban City—Eastern Visayas, comprising Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Eastern and Western Samar, today has a new Philippine National Police (PNP) regional commander.

Director General Cesar P. Nazareno, PNP chief, named Chief Supt. Jose Aquino new regional commander, replacing Chief Supt. Vicente Garcia who was recalled to PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City. Aquino is the first police officer and non-Philippine Military Academy graduate appointed to the position of PNP regional director. Others came from the defunct PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police].

Aquino was assigned to directorate for finance, PNP headquarters. A law graduate, he took international police courses in Washington, DC, in 1967 and Sicily, Italy, in 1968. He took an intelligence course at the National Defense College class No. 11 in 1976.

A native of Batangas City, Aquino was police chief of the city and deputy police chief for administration during the time of retired Brig. Gen. Evaristo Carino, PC-INP Recom [Regional Command] 4. Deputy PNP Director General Raul S. Imperial leads the turnover rites here today.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Cesar Sarino holds a dialogue today with Bicol PNP officials led by Chief Supt. Miguel Fontanilla and his staff officers at Camp Ola, Legazpi City. Sarino will also meet regional, city, and municipal officials of the DILG [Department of Interior and Local Government].

Army Syndicate Reportedly Sells Arms to Rebels

HK0702020992 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 Feb 92 p 3

[By Herbie Gomez]

[Text] Cagayan de Oro City—Eight million pesos worth of assorted firearms have been sold to the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] in a series of syndicated operations involving a number of military personnel in northern Mindanao, Brig Gen Quintin Alcudia, 4th Infantry Division chief, said yesterday.

Alcudia, in presenting Victor Tanica alias "Botik," procurement officer of the CPP-NPA [New People's Army] northern Mindanao regional committee and team leader of the communist military hardware in the region, said the syndicated operations had been going on since the late 1980s.

Tanica was captured here by Army intelligence agents this week.

The suspect yielded a French-made MAT-49 submachinegun and ammunition.

Alcudia said Tanica carried a P70,000 [Philippine pesos] reward on his head.

"The communists' harmonious relationship with these people (military personnel) enabled them to facilitate the procurement of logistical supplies, especially military hardware in northern Mindanao," he said.

Military officials added that similar transactions between some erring soldiers and the CPP-NPA were being done in other regions in Mindanao, particularly in the west.

On the other hand, Tanica's confession led to the arrest of erring military personnel involved in the unauthorized sale of military hardware to insurgents.

But Alcudia said he could not disclose their identities as of press time.

Tanica is now facing charges of subversion and illegal possession of firearms.

Abadia Believes Honasan Not Guilty of Bombings

HK0702051792 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 7 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] The military believes the ultra-rightist group has nothing to do with the Tuesday evening bombings of Shoe Mart Megamall and a Quezon City office building. At an interview after the turnover ceremony of the office of the deputy chief of staff for reservist and retiree affairs, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Lisandro Abadia expressed confidence that rebel Col Gregorio Honasan "is a gentleman, I think he will live up to his commitment to me that there will be no more of these useless bombings." However, initial police investigation indicated that the type of explosive used in the bombing of Puzon Building along E. Rodriguez Avenue was a C4 type plastic explosive similar to those used by rebel forces in the spate of bombings they initiated during the first semester of 1991. Gen Abadia said he and Mr Honasan have an "understanding forged in a series of peace negotiations that the rebels will not resort to any terroristic bombing." He said the destabilization activities will only scare off prospective investors in the country. At the same time, Gen Abadia assailed Amnesty International for not reporting atrocities committed by communist rebels. "Those charges (rape and burning of houses as parts of military operations) were unfounded," he said. He added, however, that "perhaps what the Amnesty International report is alluding to are incidents or reports which happened nine years ago... I really do not know of any incidents of that nature, at least in the years that I've been here in the GHQ (General Headquarters)."

Suspect in Camp Crame Armory Attack Arrested

HK0602140992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] A former sergeant, suspected of being responsible for the attack on the Camp Crame armory last year, was arrested by members of the Philippine National Police [PNP] Intelligence Command. The suspect was identified as former Technical Sergeant Leonardo Gonzales, formerly stationed with the Philippine Marines.

Roberto Lastimoso, PNP Intelligence Command chief, said that the suspect was arrested in a shoot-out in barangay Paiguyod, Pusorubio, Pangasinan. Here's Jim de Losano for the details:

[Begin De Losano recording in progress] ...according to him, the suspect was hit at the base of his neck after he tried to retrieve his .45 caliber gun while being arrested by police, headed by Superintendent (Ebna) Ruiz of the Criminal Investigation Service.

Gonzales, Lastimoso added, is believed to be a member of the group of rebel soldiers who raided the PNP Logistics Command Armory at Camp Crame last 23 November 1991.

The former Marine sergeant, who has a 200,000 Philippine peso reward on his head, is also one of the prime suspects for the murder of two counterintelligence agents in Makati in January last year.

The suspect is now confined at an undisclosed hospital in Metro Manila receiving treatment for his wounds. [end recording]

Abadia Denies Alleged Rapes of Female Detainees

HK0602124292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 1200 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, dismissed reports that the military and police are guilty of raping female detainees. Abadia said that there is no truth to the report issued by the international human rights group indicating that the Philippines is one of the 14 countries guilty of mass human rights violations. He also said that it is likely that the human rights group's report was only based on the incidents which took place in Marag Valley in 1983, wherein several soldiers were accused of raping suspected female New People's Army [NPA] rebels.

Abadia also denied allegations that the Philippine Army burned down one hundred houses in Kalinga-Apayao, where it is now conducting several operations against the NPA rebels. He also pointed out that the NPA rebels are really becoming desperate for them to use propaganda to mar the reputation of the Armed Forces.

Three Top New People's Army Officials Arrested

HK0702061392 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog 7 Feb 92 p 10

[By Rey Domingo]

[Text] Three top officials and 10 other members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [NPA] have surrendered to members of the Philippine National Police's [PNP] 170th Mobile Force Company [MFC] at Guiguinto, Bulacan.

According to Senior Inspector Leon Nilo dela Cruz, commander of the 170th MFC, those arrested were Danilo Alisbo, member of the First Squad Force Guerrilla Unit; Isabelita Dalmacio, member of the NPA Executive Committee and leader of the Finance Department; and Felipe Abdon, member of the NPA Finance Collective Department of the province.

Those who surrendered were identified as Derado Pomer, Emmanuel Panganiban, Rodolfo Quedit, Reynaldo Cristobal, Roberto Rosales, Mamento Apostol Jr., Ernesto Fabian, Mauricio de Jesus, Crispin Hantong and Reynaldo Gabriel, all active party officials and members.

According to Dela Cruz, the communist rebels were arrested and returned to the government fold after the PNP implemented its 24-hour operation against insurgents in Bulacan.

In related developments, Dela Cruz's men also arrested 127 people on illegal gambling charges, and the police were able to solve 649 criminal cases throughout the whole province.

In light of this, Dela Cruz expressed confidence that the NPA forces in the province have now weakened and criminality has declined.

Thailand

Burma Warned Against Cross-Border Pursuits

BK0702013992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—Rangoon troops plan to cross the border into Thailand to attack the Karen National Union's [KNU] Kawmura Camp from the rear as in 1989 and 1990, a military source said yesterday.

But Task Force 34 commander Col Niphan Siphaibun said the Thai border forces will not allow any foreign force to use Thai territory for such a purpose.

The source said at least 1,000 Rangoon troops are poised to attack the camp opposite Ban Wang Kaeo in Mae Sot.

Rangoon has long sought to seize the camp.

In 1989, four days after capturing the KNU's Wang Kha Camp on May 16, about 500 Burmese troops crossed the border to Ban Wang Kaew. Heavy exchanges of the fire between Rangoon troops and KNU rebels caused more than 100 houses of villagers to burn down. However, the troops failed to seize the camp.

In February 1990, about 800 Burmese troops entered Thailand at Bang Wang Kaew for the same purpose but again failed to capture the camp.

They failed in both attacks because of KNU reinforcements from nearby Ye Gyaw Camp.

This time Rangoon troops captured Ye Gyaw Camp two days ago to cut off possible reinforcements.

Col Niphan said Thailand regards the suppression drive inside Burma as that country's internal affairs. But the troops will not be allowed to use Thai territory.

"If there is any violation of the border from foreign forces, Thailand is ready to retaliate with a graduated response from light to heavy," Col Niphan said.

No foreign troops, no matter of which side, will be allowed on Thai territory. If they try to enter they will meet strong resistance, Col Niphan said.

Cabinet Okays Increase in Border Rice Trade

BK0502051092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Report by Radio Thailand correspondent Amphon Samoson on result of 4 February Cabinet meeting at Government House in Bangkok]

[Text] Ceiling imposed on border rice trade will be increased ten-fold. The Cabinet has approved a draft ministerial regulation calling for the increase in the ceiling of border rice trade to 500,000 baht a day [as heard].

At present, Thai traders are allowed to export rice worth no more than 50,000 baht a day to countries which share common borders with Thailand.

The Ministry of Commerce reported that the current political situation both inside and outside of Thailand has been very stable. As a consequence, various countries in Southeast Asia have set out to intensify their trade cooperation with one another.

The ministry deems it appropriate to increase Thailand's ceiling of border rice trade. This is because Thailand has been able to produce a large volume of rice sufficient for more exports to foreign countries.

The increase in the ceiling of border rice trade is also in line with the government's policy of earning more foreign exchange.

The draft ministerial regulation will be forwarded to the Office of the Juridical Council for scrutiny. Following the scrutinization, the ministerial regulation can be enforced upon its publication in the Royal Gazette. This can be completed within no more than one month.

Navy Takes Delivery of Chinese-Built Frigates

BK0302145392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Today, the Navy took delivery of a new frigate to support its missions in Thai territorial waters. Admiral Prachum Khruawan, Navy fleet commander, presided over the delivery ceremony in Sattahip Naval Base. The guided missile frigate is named Kra Buri. It was ordered from China and is a large-size surface ship capable of air, sea, and antisubmarine operations. It also carries helicopters to enhance its patrol, search, and defense missions. The 103-meter ship displaces 19,000 tons and is capable of 30 knots. It is armed with surface-to-surface guided missiles, guns, antisubmarine rockets, surface radar, and radar-controlled firing systems.

Three Parties Set Up 'Tentative' Friendship

BK0702020100 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Feb 92 p A1, A2

[by Somphong Kittinaradon, Phatchari Luunguthai, Sumitra Hanpanyaphichit]

[Text] The Chat Thai, Samakkhitham and Social Action parties had reached an agreement to make politics "stable and orderly" after the election so that the incoming government could effectively tackle accumulated and growing economic woes, Chat Thai Leader ACM Sombun Rahong said yesterday.

But in politics, there was nothing definite and neither was the tentatative "friendship" binding the three parties, Sombun said.

After establishing the informal grouping, Sombun said he was concentrating on how many House seats his party would win and how to make the most possible gains.

Chat Thai and Samakkhitham are seen by political analysts as having the potential to win the most number of House seats. When the votes are counted, the dominating party will be in a position to call the shots in forming the new government.

In an exclusive interview, the Chat Thai leader admitted that he played an instrumental role in the establishment of the Samakkhitham Party led by Narong Wongwan and engineered by Secretary General Sqn Ldr Titi Nakonthap. He also emphasized that the two parties are "brotherly parties".

He said that he had also exchanged views with SAP [Social Action Party] leader Montri Phongpanit and secretary general Lt Gen Kasem Kraisan over the future of politics and they shared the view that they should present a united front.

"We are willing to be any political party's friend," he said.

Sombun said he and Montri knew each other quite well as he was managing director of the Airports Authority of Thailand when the SAP leader was communications minister.

Kasem and Sombun also were not strangers, said the Chat Thai leader, adding that they used to attend the same class at the Armed Forces Staff College.

"He is a man with the enthusiasm to achieve his ideological aims," Sombun said of the SAP secretary general, who is known to be a close friend of Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun. Kasem recently quit the army to join the SAP.

Despite the exploratory talks among the leaders of the three parties, which are seen by political analysts as opening the way for them to form the nucleus of the new administration, Sombun cautioned that there was nothing certain in politics.

Things might not work out the way the seemed to be heading, he said. For example, he said, "Chat Thai and Samakkhitham have been political friends all along but nobody knows how our relations will be in the future." He did not elaborate.

He said the three parties did not go as far as to agree on who should be the next prime minister of an administration with the trio at the core.

Among the leaders of the three parties, ACM Sombun is considered to be a strong candidate for the premiership because his party might emerge as the biggest from the March 22 election. Samakkhitham could also be the biggest party but its leader, Narong Wongwan, is reportedly reluctant to take the top executive post.

But Narong has declared that he is ready for it," Sombun.

Sombun said he too was ready for the top executive post but added that he did not have any political ambitions, no matter whether it was the premiership or a ministerial post.

On the question of whether the next premier should be an MP or an outsider, Sombun said "Certainly everybody has agreed in principle that he should be an MP, but we have to consider the circumstances at the time, and there are many, many factors which we will have to take into account.

"The most important thing is that the administration must be stable so it could introduce effective measures to boost the standard of living of the people, particularly farmers and labourers."

Although the priority issues on the next government agenda were in the economic domain, Sombun said the man at the administrative helm after the polls need not be an "economist".

"Anybody can be prime minister if he is nominated. His expertise is not as important as the academic staff or the think-tank to serve him. He must be experienced enough not to be fooled by his staff and to make correct judgement and decisions on the advice," he said.

He responded cautiously to the call by Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin for Suchinda to resign and take over as prime ministry, an opinion which has been decried by the student movement.

Of course he has the qualifications for the post, like many other people. The thing is that we should not prejudge anybody. The value of a man should be best measured by his achievements."

Sombun said what he cared the most about was not whether he would be appointed premier but whether his party's platform would be implemented.

"I would be happy if becoming the prime minister would mean my ability to realize the goals. By the same token, anybody will be fine if that means our policies would be put into practice," he added.

He also said that if his party became part of the new government, it would push for the implementation of the following urgent programme which he said could produce achievements in one year.

—Guaranteeing such important crop prices as rice, maize, cassava and rubber; establishment of a Labour Affairs Bureau;

—Making tambon councils legal entities so they have the authority to determine how to spend money allocated to them by the central government.

—Enhancing the Labour Department to ministerial level to set living standards and look after the welfare of workers, as well as handling the export of labour.

—Set daily ceilings of petroleum product prices and standardize the prices nationwide.

—Appointing "top experts" to a national committee to tackle traffic woes while speeding up the launching of remaining infrastructure projects.

Guaranteeing crop prices, he said, would enable the large farming population to calculate its profits and expenses. "They are unlike us who are receiving fixed salaries because their income depends on weather and fate, so to say," he said.

The programme should boost the farming population's purchasing power, thus stimulating the supply side and increasing investment to increase productivity of basic necessities and other consumer goods, he said.

Giving legal status to tambon councils would also help development to spread throughout rural areas, he said. Without this status, development budgets to tambons had not been fairly distributed and spent, he said.

The tambon councils would work out development projects according to local needs. "Any village which lacks a road would get it, any which wants a water reserve could also get it, and I believe the tambon councils won't betray the villagers because they are all brothers and relatives," he said.

Of the plan for a Labour Ministry, Sombun, who is running alongside former deputy interior minister in charge of labour affairs Watthana Atsawahem in Samut Prakan, said the ministry would introduce a programme to buy large plots of land in labour-intensive areas and construct housing, hospitals and other facilities for the workers.

"With the concentration of workers in one area, enterprenuers would seek to set up plants in such a community. And now they have to pay a high fee for the privilege. That money would then go to a fund to provide better welfare for the labour force," he said.

Puang Chon Chao Thai Party, UDP Merge

BK0302021992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] The Puang Chon Chao Thai Party and the United Democratic Party [UDP] have been merged with veteran politician Col Phon Roengprasoewit as the leader.

About 100 members of the two parties met at a city restaurant yesterday to witness the merger and appointment of 24 executives of the party which is still called Puang Chon Chao Thai (PCCT).

The merger was widely tipped by political experts after veteran party leader Athit Kamlang-ek defected to Samakkhi Tham Party.

The PCCT will summon its election candidates on Friday and declare their list the following day, according to its new leader Col Phon.

Col Phon, who will run in Nakhon Sawan's Constituency 1, said he expects the party to have about 20 MPs after the general election.

In the 1988 election 17 PCCT candidates and five UDP candidates were elected as MPs.

The new PCCT leader is a four-time MP for Uthai Thani Province.

However, PCCT secretary-general Rawi Wanphen said Gen Athit's defection did not mean PCCT would be a coaliton partner in the next government.

"There is no agreement obligating STP to bring the PCCT into a coalition government just because Gen Athit switched to STP," said Maj-Gen Rawi.

The PCCT secretary-general, who will not run in the coming election, said the next prime minister does not have to be an elected MP. He said any member of a political party should be eligible to be prime minister.

The issue of prime minister had been talked about too much while policies toward issues at national level had not.

PCCT did not have big financiers like other political parties, he said.

In other developments, former three time MP for the Democrats Ophat Rongngoen, who has left the new Aspiration Party, will run for the Democrats in the general election.

A senior southern member of the Democrats, Samphan Thongsamak, confirmed this yesterday.

The former deputy education minister, who was six times an MP for Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, said he had been told by Mr Ophat that he would like to run for the Democrats.

"There is no problem. He will be one of the party's three candidates in Phatthalung and the party will decide tomorrow on the other two candidates," Mr Samphan said.

A New Aspiration source said Sanan Suphanchanaburi, who had earlier resigned from the party, would run for the NAP while his former team-mate Ophat ran for the Democrats.

NAP branch members in the province had earlier threatened to leave the party over a move to recruit two former MPs to represent it.

Mr Ophat and Mr Sanan, who were close to NAP deputy leader Wira Musikaphong, were elected in the province for the Prachachon Party in the last election in 1988.

Another former MP for the province, Charoen Phikdiphanit of Chat Thai, is likely to be elected for a second term on March 22.

Mr Samphan said he is confident the Democrats will gain more than half the 45 parliamentary seats to be contested in the South. In the last election, the party took 16.

Meanwhile, the Democrats yesterday distributed hundreds of thousands of posters bearing a portrait of party leader Chuan Likphai, urging people to support him as the next premier.

Vietnam

Hanoi Hails U.S. Presidential Envoy's Visit

BK0702113792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President's special envoy, General John Vessey, has just concluded his trip to Vietnam. In this connection, the Voice of Vietnam has this to say.

General John Vessey visited Vietnam from 30 January to 1 February 1992. According to the agreement between the two governments of Vietnam and the United States, he was accompanied by a number of U.S. press heads and diplomats. General John Vessey and his entourage called on Vietnamese Defense Minister General Doan Khue and had talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

The two sides issued a joint statement declaring that they had exchanged views on humanitarian issues concerning both Vietnam and the United States and on a number of varied issues of mutual concerns. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of frankness and in a constructive spirit.

The two sides agreed to strengthen existing measures designed to acquire and verify information concerning American missing in action and to continue cooperation to resolve all pending issues. The two sides also reviewed the implementation of an agreement reached by the Foreign Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Manh Cam, and General John Vessey in October 1991, and the results of the 15th joint drive to search for information on American missing in action in Vietnam.

They also reviewed progress toward solving other humanitarian questions. They reviewed the results of investigation of 119 discrepancy cases to which the U.S. and Vietnam have given priority since 1988 and agreed to hold top-level meetings to discuss ways to accelerate resolution of these cases and to plan operation for the next 12 to 24 months.

General John Vessey reviewed for the Vietnamese, U.S. efforts to address Vietnam's humanitarian needs. In this connection, he informed the Vietnamese Government that the U.S. would provide for the first time disaster assistance to aid victims of the recent typhoon in Central Vietnam. The Vietnamese side appreciated these efforts and requested that the U.S. side increase its contributions in this area.

They agreed to hold in Hanoi a meeting of representatives of the two governments by the end of February 1992 to further evaluate the U.S. humanitarian program and Vietnam's humanitarian needs.

The two sides also reiterated the desire of their respective governments for early normalization of relations between the two countries. General John Vessey and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam agreed to meet again to assess progress following next month's top-level meeting at a date to be determined.

Observers said that the recent trip to Vietnam by General John Vessey and his delegation opened new prospect for normalizing bilateral relations.

Vietnamese Party General Secretary Do Muoi has stated in the past that Vietnam has always shown its goodwill toward the U.S. In recent years, Vietnam has cooperated with the U.S. to solve humanitarian questions left behind by the war waged by the U.S. in South Vietnam.

Vietnam has already handed over nearly 500 sets of remains of Americans missing in action in Vietnam and has worked on other humanitarian issues.

For its part, the U.S. has offered Vietnam one million U.S. dollars to make artificial limbs and has lifted both the bans on Vietnam's tourism by the Americans and the 25-mile limit on movement of Vietnamese diplomats in New York.

However, there are still numerous obstacles to friendly relations between the U.S. and Vietnam imposed by the U.S, the biggest of these concerns the MIA.

Public opinion in both Vietnam and the U.S. supports the lifting of the U.S. embargo against Vietnam and the normalization of U.S. relations with Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples and of peace, cooperation, and development throughout the world.

Meeting Marks Communist Party's 62d Anniversary

BK0602135192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Report on meeting held in Hanoi on 31 January to mark the 62d founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam]

[Summary] "Dear friends,

"In this jubilant atmosphere when people in the whole country are preparing to welcome the new year, this afternoon at the Vietso Workers Friendship Cultural Center, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF], the Hanoi Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], and the Hanoi People's Committee held a solemn meeting to mark the 62d founding anniversary of the CPV.

"Attending the meeting were Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi; Dao Duy Tung, member of the CPV Political Bureau; Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the CPV Political Bureau; Vu Oanh, member of the CPV Political Bureau; Pham The Duyet, member of the CPV Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi party committee; and Nong Duc Manh, member of the CPV Political Bureau and director of the CPV Nationalities Department. The meeting was also attended by Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the VFF Presidium; Pham Van Kiet, vice chairman and secretary general of the VFF; representatives of central and Hanoi sectors and departments; and many people from all of walks of life in Hanoi. The meeting started at exactly at 1500 [0800 GMT]. [SRV national anthem heard in the background]

"Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho delivered an opening speech:

[Begin Nguyen Huu Tho recording] "Dear Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, leading comrades of the party and state, and all delegates,

"Today, the people in the capital and entire country are solemnly commemorating the 62d founding anniversary of the Indochinese Communist Party, the former body of the present CPV.

"On behalf of the VFF Central Committee, I heartily welcome Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, leading comrades of the party and state, and all delegates attending this meeting which is being held by members of the VFF and the Hanoi party committee to mark the party's founding anniversary. This meeting marking the party's founding anniversary allows us a time to recall the historic revolutionary tradition under the leadership of the party and President Ho Chi Minh and for us to further strengthen the close relationship between the party and the public. It is also an occasion for our people to show our determination to successfully implement the directives and resolutions of the party and state, especially the resolution of the seventh national party congress, the resolution of the second party central committee plenum, the resolutions of the city and provincial party committee congresses, and the resolution of the tenth session of the National Assembly.

"In that spirit, I declare open the solemn meeting to mark the founding anniversary of the party." [applause] [end recording]

After lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho's opening speech, Comrade Pham Van Kiet addressed the meeting. He said:

[Begin Pham Van Kiet recording] "Dear Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, comrades from the party Central Committee Political Bureau, Comrade VFF Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, and delegates and friends,

"Through our long history, our Vietnamese people have achieved a number of glorious victories, brightening our nation, forging a national heroic and unyielding tradition, and leaving to us many precious legacies."

"It can be said that never before in our nation's long history has there been a period which witnessed so many profound, great, and fast-breaking changes as the period under the CPV's leadership. Over the past 62 years, together with our people, our party, which was founded, educated, and trained by venerated and beloved President Ho Chi Minh, has overcome countless difficulties and challenges, and has endured untold losses and sacrifices in the struggle to regain independence and freedom for the fatherland and to lead our nation to socialism.

"In reviewing the great victories that they have scored over the past 62 years under the Communist Party's leadership, our people have felt more enthused, have taken more pride in our party, and have put more confidence in the path chosen by our party, people, and Uncle Ho.

"Commemorating this glorious historic anniversary, our people affectionately remember and express their boundless gratitude to venerated and beloved President

Ho Chi Minh, who founded, trained, and led the CPV. Together with the CPV, President Ho—the genius of our nation—has led the Vietnamese people from one victory to another. He knew how to harmoniously combine patriotism with genuine internationalism, national strength with the strength of the times, and the nation with the class. He devoted his entire life to serving the cause of the nation and party. President Ho Chi Minh's thinking and great examples will illuminate our path forever.

"We express our boundless grief over the deaths of all communist cadres, fighters, and compatriots who have sacrificed themselves for the sake of the fatherland's independence and freedom as well as for our people's happiness. We will remember forever the meritorious services that they have rendered to the nation and people. We bow our heads to all those fallen heroes and heroines.

"In solemnly commemorating this anniverary amid a jubilant atmosphere created by the New Year, the VFF Central Committee warmly commends our compatriots and members of the Armed Forces nationwide for their ardent patriotism and marvelous revolutionary heroism. We would like to convey our most affectionate feelings to all Vietnamese compatriots overseas. Being the sons and daughters of the nation, they have always turned their attention toward the fatherland." [end recording]

After stressing the historic significance of the party's founding anniversary, Comrade Pham Van Kiet attributed the great victories scored by our people over the past 62 years to the the CPV's leadership. He maintained that despite the current complicated international situation, our people's renovation undertaking has enjoyed many favorable conditions. Our party and state have gained more experiences in leadership and management. He pointed out that together with the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue, the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations, and the expansion of ties with Southeast Asian countries and other nations worldwide, this situation has created new opportunities for the cause of national construction. Comrade Pham Van Kiet continued:

[Begin recording] "Dear delegates: Based on the abovementioned situation and the goals set for the initial stage of the period of transition to socialism, the seventh party congress has set forth the general objectives for the next five years as follows: It is necessary to overcome all difficulties and challenges, stabilize and boost socioeconomic development, strengthen political security, push back negativism and social injustice, and help our country basically pull through the present crisis.

"The abovementioned objectives were concretized by the eighth National Assembly's 10th session through a five-year socioeconomic development plan. The National Assembly also set forth concrete goals for 1992, and this marks a very important stage during which our compatriots and combatants throughout the country must vigorously develop the traditions of national unity, independence, and sovereignty as well as the spirit of self-reliance and self-sufficiency in order to make the country prosperous and powerful and advance to socialism step by step.

"In marking the CPV's 62d founding anniversary, the VFF hopes that Vietnamese patriots will all remain attached to the nation and people and contribute their wisdom and talents to the cause of national development aimed at making the people rich and the country powerful along the socialist path.

"On the occasion of the New Year, the VFF Central Committee would like to extend to delegates, compatriots, cadres, and combatants nationwide as well as overseas Vietnamese compatriots its best wishes for good health, happiness, and progress. Thank you." [end recording]

The meeting took place in a warm atmosphere with everyone enthusiastically and confidently waiting for the coming of the Nham Than [Year of the Monkey] New Year.

Ho Chi Minh City Marks Anniversary

BK0402132992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] This morning, 1 February, at the Ba Son Joint Enterprise under management of the Ministry of National Defense, the Ho Chi Minh City party committee, people's council, and people's committee organized a solemn meeting to mark the 62d founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

Attending the function were Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the party Central Committee, other comrades representing the Ministry of National Defense and City Hall, and a large number of cadres and employees of the joint enterprise.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the city party committee, delivered a speech pointing out the CPV's glorious revolutionary traditions over the past 62 years and expressing everyone's absolute confidence in the party and the path chosen by Uncle Ho.

Officials Pay Tet Visits to Provinces, Units

Vo Chi Cong Visits Quang Nam-Da Nang

BK0502141992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] From 29 to 31 January, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, paid a Tet visit to party and people in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province.

Comrade Nguyen Van Chi, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the province's party committee; Tran Dinh Dam, chairman of the people's committee; Le Phuoc Khanh, deputy secretary of the province's party committee; Nguyen Thanh, chairman of the province's people's council; and many other leading comrades heartily welcomed Chairman Vo Chi Cong.

While having friendly meetings with people from the four districts of Nui Thanh, Tra Ngo, Tien Phuoc, and Tam Ky, Chairman Vo Chi Cong spent time listening to opinions reflecting the thinking, aspirations, and ideas of people from those districts on the economic, everyday life, cultural, education, and medical fields. They also presented suggestions on the government building work at all levels, especially in the former revolutionary base areas, mountainous areas, and areas inhabited by the ethnic minority people.

The people from Tien Phuoc and Tra Ngo urged the party and state to pay more attention to people living in the former revolutionary bases, where quite a few people have died of malaria, the rate of children going to school is low, the state of public transport is poor, and the medical service is unsatisfactory. They suggested that the party and state should have plans to teach civil servants how to work in mountainous areas and with ethnic minority people.

The people from Nui Thanh and Tam Ky suggested that the government reconsider setting up district banks for people in these areas. They also urged the government to provide financial loans to people living in coastal areas and affected by the recent tornado so they can restart their production.

Speaking to these people, Chairman Vo Chi Cong recalled with emotion his profound memories of many working years here. He thanked the people for their protection provided to the party bases and himself in the two national struggles. At the new year, he wished new achievements for the party committees, soldiers, and people of the four district. He also inquired and extended new year greetings to people who had faced natural calamities, expressed his sympathy to their difficulties, and hailed the efforts of party committees and people to restore production.

With the spirit of comradeship, the chairman visited his friends, comrades, and places where he had lived and fought for sixty years. Now, many of his comrade-in-arms have passed away, leaving him with deep feelings about the days of his living and fighting in the zone five battlefield.

Meeting the old revolutionary comrades who are now in Da Nang, the chairman was pleased to know that his friends, despite old age and poor health, are still loyal to the party and to the revolutionary undertakings.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong exchanged opinions with his old comrades on many issues aimed at consolidating and building the party, especially party organizations at grassroots levels. They also exchanged views on the fighting against corruption and the restoration of orders and principles in the party and society. And they discussed measures to strengthen the ties between the party and public, and ways to stabilize and improve people's life.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong also paid a Tet visit to cadres and soldiers at the Military Zone Five Commander. As a former resident of zone five, he wished the cadres and soldiers a satisfactorily fulfillment of all their duties, so earning the reputation as a reliable force of the party, state, and Uncle Ho's army.

On his days in Quang Nam-Da Nang, Chairman Vo Chi Cong held working sessions with the provincial standing party committee, the people's committee, and the people's council. After listening to reports on the province's socioeconomic situation, the chairman praised the party and people in Quang Nam-Da Nang for their efforts to stabilize and develop the province's socioeconomy in a difficult situation.

At the new year, he wished the party and people in Quang Nam-Da Nang new achievements in the spirit of the Seventh National Party Congress and the contribution of their share to the successful implementation of the 1992 socioeconomic targets just approved by the National Assembly.

Visits Ha Tay

BK0502051192 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] On the occasion of the Nham Than [Year of the Monkey] New Year, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, visited and extended his Tet greetings to the party organization, Armed Forces, and people in Ha Tay Province.

Accompanying Chairman Vo Chi Cong were Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, secretary general of the Council of State; Comrade Nguyen Dinh So, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee; Comrade Trinh Kien Hoa, chairman of the provincial people's council; Comrade Vuong Van Mien, chairman of the provincial people's committee; and many representatives of local agencies. Chairman Vo Chi Cong was accorded a warm welcome on this occasion.

Of late, the Ha Tay provincial party organization and administrative bodies have satisfactorily carried out the delineation of the administrative boundaries of the province and have promptly stabilized the operations of local administrative organs.

As far as agricultural production is concerned, last year's winter-spring harvest was a serious failure due to natural disasters. Nonetheless, thanks to a relatively high 10th-month crop yield, the province was able to effectively resolve the food problem and to secure sufficient food supplies for the local people. Politial stability has also been secured. Unity and singlemindedness have prevailed among all members of the party organization.

On behalf of the party and state, Chairman Vo Chi Cong warmly commended the Ha Tay provincial party organization and people for their achievements. After outlining a number of tasks for everyone to carry out in 1992, Chairman Vo Chi Cong presented his New Year greetings to cadres, combatants, and compatriots of different ethnic groups in Ha Tay, wishing them greater victories. He also asked the representatives to convey the regards and Tet greetings of the party and state to all cadres, party members, combatants, and people of all walks of life in the province.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong then joined the comrade local leading officials in a tree-planting ceremony at the Ha Tay city park.

Visits Industrial Cooperative

BK0602104592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] On the occasion of Tet Nham Than [Year of the Monkey], Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, paid a visit to the cadres and workers of the Tien Bo Industrial Cooperative in Hanoi recently. Accompanying the chairman were Comrade Nguyen Viet Dung, secretary of the Council of State; and Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi municipal people's committee.

Comrade Hoang Thi Dung, head of the cooperative briefed Chairman Vo Chi Cong on the development and results achieved by the cooperative during the past period. The cooperative, established in 1985 with only 10 cadres and members and no facilities, now has three sections with 125 workers. It has a modern production line producing writing and drawing paper. The cooperative has also conducted research into and successfully produced 40 and 80-liter warm water tanks and paper wardrobes for sale to hotels and people in the capital. Its gross production output in 1991 increased by fivefold compared with 1990. The average monthly income of its workers increased from 60,000 to 150,000 dong; some even earned 500,000-700,000 a month.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong highly commended the cadres and members of the cooperative for their dynamism in production and business, and their efforts to produce new products which meet the demand of people in the capital. The chairman wished the cooperative progress and prosperity, and its members new achievements in the new year.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong also visited the family of police captain Nguyen Viet Cuong, who during the past year detected and investigated many serious crimes and settled many complaints lodged by the people with fine results. Due to his good performance, he was awarded a certificate of commendation by the Council of Ministers Chairman. Chairman Vo Chi Cong solicitously inquired about the daily life of the captain's family. The chairman commended the captain and members of the Hanoi public security force for their great efforts. He wished them ever greater achievements in maintaining political security and social order and safety in the capital city during the new year.

Do Muoi Visits Institute of Technology

BK0602115892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 Feb 92

[Text] On the occasion of Tet [Vietnamese Lunar New Year], Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] visited and presented gifts to scientists working at the Vietnam Institute of Technology. Professor Nguyen Van Hieu, member of the CPV Central Committee and rector of the institute and other leading cadres welcomed the general secretary and introduced him to several research and applied scientific departments.

In his talk with the scientists, General Secretary Do Muoi commended them and the institute for their work and efforts in promoting scientific and technological innovations last year, thus contributing to improving the management mechanism, enhancing the capability of scientists trained and forged by the party and state, and strengthening the autonomy of specialized units.

General Secretary Do Muoi, on behalf of the party Central Committee and the state, conveyed his kind regards and best wishes in the New Year to Vietnamese scientists at home and abroad.

Vo Van Kiet Visits Oilfield

BK0602103792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Text] On 2 February, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet paid a Tet visit to cadres and workers at the Bach Ho oilfield in Ba Ria-Vung Tau province. He solicitously inquired about the health, working conditions, and welfare of the workers, especially those who work on oil rigs.

On behalf of the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, Comrade Vo Van Kiet highly commended the cadres and workers of the Vietnam-Soviet Oil and Gas Joint Enterprise for their achievements and efforts in exploiting more than 3.9 million tonnes of oil in 1991 and in consistently maintaining production output in January this year.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet said that he will visit the oilfield again next year if it can fulfill the targets set for this year.

On 3 February, Chairman Vo Van Kiet held a working session with the Vietnam-Soviet Oil and Gas Joint Enterprise. A large number of Vietnamese and Soviet specialists and workers warmly welcomed the Council of

Ministers Chairman and the leading cadres of Ba Ria-Vung Tau province who accompanied him.

Doan Khue Visits Navy Command, Units

BK0702101892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] On 4 February, General Doan Khue, member of the party Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the Central Military Party Committee, and minister of national defense paid a Tet visit to and celebrated the New Year with officers and soldiers of the Navy.

The comrades working in the Navy Command and officers and soldiers on duty at their units were happy to receive the minister on the morning of the New Year. Minister Doan Khue wished cadres and soldiers of the Navy more achievements in the New Year in their duty of building a completely stable and strong Army and in heightening the sense of self-reliance and "maintaining well, using long" all existing equipment and weapon. He also urged the units to satisfactorily take care of the material and spiritual life for cadres and soldiers, especially soldiers serving their duty in remote islands.

Through the telecommunications network of the Navy Command Headquarters, Minister Doan Khue spoke directly and extended Tet greetings to soldiers deployed in the Spratlys and to soldiers of Division M46 and Division B of the Navy.

On the New Year, Gen. Doan Khue also paid Tet visits to cadres and personnel of the Military Strategy Institute of the Ministry of National Defense, the central office of the Vietnam War Veteran Association, the Quyet Thang Military Group, and the Bim Son Cement Factory.

PRC Border Gates Opened for New Year

BK0702032892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] By mutual agreement between authorities of Lang Son Province of Vietnam and Guangxi Province of China, the two provinces have opened all border gates during the lunar new year festival for the population on both sides to move freely across the border to visit relatives.

Chinese border guard posts and a Chinese village have invited Vietnamese border guards to join them in celebrating the new year.

Further on Causes of Socialist Defeat

BK0702064592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 30 Dec 92

["Second and last part" of article by Doan Chuong: "A Great Lesson of the Era"]

[Text] 3. Third is the lesson of party development. The Communist Party is charged with the historic mission of leading, building and defending the socialist regime. It must be developed politically, ideologically, and organizationally to be abreast of this historical mission. Once it has become a ruling party and if it is not satisfactorily developed, dangerous problems will occur easily. First, a loss of democracy will generate a system of orders and class which greatly affects internal democracy.

Wherever and whenever individualism is mixed with power, it will certainly give rise to the evils of authoritarianism, paternalism, arbitrariness, despotism, and individual idolatry. If the principles of the party's organizational and operational systems—which consist of democratic centralization, collective leadership, criticism and self-criticism—are not observed scrupulously, they will become loopholes for opportunism to come into existence and develop, and for the opportunists to take deep root, climb higher and rule the roost.

Second, bureaucratism estranges the party from the masses. The machineries of the party, the state and even the mass organizations might be bureaucratized administratively along with the evil practice of racing for achievements to distort truth. The laboring people's mastery and the right to self-determination of people of various nationalities are encroached upon. The phenomena of authoritarianism and oppression have alienated the masses from the party. Many party members do not even know how to conduct political struggle to motivate the masses in order to pool up force and struggle for reason and for the implementation of party lines.

Third, prerogatives and privileges which are closely linked to power and corruption, will have conditions to develop. Particularly, when we are shifting to the market mechanism, if we do not have a proper management mechanism, such phenomena as degeneration and deviation will come into being and will badly harm the party's reputation and the people's confidence. These very evils have eroded the leadership, militancy, and political prestige of the party, and create loopholes for the enemies to take advantage of and carry out the objectives of their peaceful evolution strategy, and destroy the party from inside out in combination of outside pressure to force the party to change color.

Moreover, realities have posed everyday more acute problems of livelihood and democracy. At the same time, changes in modern capitalism in terms of achievements in the revolution of science and modern technology, have caused the people to have illusions about capitalism. A psychological state of doubt and oscillation emerges and mainly serves as a basis for the current social democratic movement to rise. Overcoming conservatism and sluggishness, and resolutely carrying out reform and renovation thus constitute an inevitable and pressing objective issue for survival. Yet, reform and renovation do not mean changing direction to reject Marxism- Leninism, socialism, and the Communist Party, in order to conciliate with capitalism and agree with imperialism.

This very new opportunistic tide was the main culprit responsible for the current collapse of socialism. It is a natural ally of imperialism and is nurtured and taken advantage of by imperialism. As a result, the struggle against imperialism must be closely linked to the struggle against opportunism and vice-versa. The imperialist peaceful evolution strategy is centered on the implementation of political pluralism and multiopposition parties. Its objective is to depose communism and restore capitalism. Its maneuvers are very subtle and complex. It coordinates several aspects with one another and uses the method of soaking soil with uninterrrupted rain for generations. Sometimes, it goes from political pluralism to free market economy, but at times the other way around. In some respects, it exerts a direct effect and in others it is carried out through others' hands since opportunism is a natural ally of imperialism. Its most usual maneuver is to make the party ranks evolve by themselves. Otherwise, pressure will be exerted from many directions, especially from the opposition forces to force socialism to change its hue. Sometimes, the enemies combine peaceful evolution with riots, overthrow and armed intervention, and so forth.

As a result, the struggle against peaceful evolution is quite complex. It calls for alertness, determination, and agility.

To keep abreast of the historic task of opposing the enemy's peaceful evolution, the renovation and reoganization of the party is inevitable. The seventh party congress has correctly set the guidelines. What is important now is to turn the congress resolution into a reality in life.

First of all, the political, ideological and cultural front is now a fiery one because the enemy plots are devilish and the present era is an era of explosive information. We must persevere with our ideals and ideology, determine a compass for our action, resolutely define the boundaries of the political, ideological and cultural battlefields, persist in our offensive, and refuse to have illusory thoughts of conciliation.

Realities have clearly indicated that the enemies are very persistent ideologically and attack socialism by all means. Although they openly deceive, quite a number of communists have resigned themselves to conciliation and gradual concessions, so that they will be finally driven against the wall and swallowed up. We must resolutely oppose aand attack the tendency of bourgeois liberalization and pragmatic lifestyle, and all opportunistic manifestations. We must attack them with a combined strength without ever slackening nor conciliating. The party must constantly enhance its intellectual ability in order to be alert to the acquisition of new things and the assertion of its principles in the struggle.

Second, we must resolutely reorganize the party, eliminate from the party those opportunistic, corrupt, degenerate and deviant members, and cancel all prerogatives and privileges. Only by so doing, can we truly restore the people's confidence and have the party possess new vitality.

Third, we must strictly observe the organizational and operational principles of the party concerning democratic centralization, collective leadership, criticism, and self-criticism. We must promote the activity, initiative, and creativity of cadres and party members; strictly maintain party discipline; and protect the solidarity and unity of the party against all manifestations of opportunism, factionalism, paternalism, arbitrariness, departmentalism, localism, casualness, and indiscipline.

Fourth, we must genuinely renovate the cadres' task, promote democracy in the selection and employment of cadres, and control cadres through evaluating their actions. On the one hand, we must promptly detect and eliminate opportunistic, corrupt, degenerate and deviant cadres and prevent them from taking deep root and climbing high, especially in strategic agencies. On the other, on behalf of the revolution, we must discover and train more brilliant people in various fields.

Fifth, we must pay special attention to the building of comprehensively firm, strong bases where all of the party lines and policies are implemented. These bases serve as bridges linking the party with the masses and create an integrated strength for us with which we can parry all the enemy's offensive blows. All problems can be solved by the people. It is necessary to study and build a system of trust and control by the masses over party members and basic organizations. On the other, to develop the strength of party leadership so that it can cope with the requirements of building and defending the socialist regime against peaceful evolution and all other enemy plots, the party must pay attention to the key leading tasks in order to maintain political stability—primarily ideological stability—improve democratic mechanism, perfect socialist democracy, democratize all aspects of social life, renovate the operational contents and methods of mass and government organizations, and implement the people's genuine right to mastery under party leadership.

The party should firmly grasp the central tasks of leading and building the economy, of which the key task is to develop production forces. It must constantly ensure that economic development is in line with the socialist orientation, and it must closely combine economic growth with the implementation of social policies aimed at ensuring social justice and progress. The party should also understand thoroughly the viewpoint of closely combining socialist construction with the defense of the homeland and the socialist regime. While setting socialist construction as a primary task, it is absolutely forbidden to neglect the national defense task and the national defense and security system. In particular, the party's political leadership over national defense and security forces must be firmly secured.

Australia

Foreign Ministry Admits To 'Classified' Leaks

BK0702073492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Feb 92

[Text] The Australian Foreign Affairs Department has admitted leaks from the department are embarassing and potentially damaging to the country. Canberra's Foreign Affairs Department secretary, Mr. Richard Woolcott, has told a Senate committee that there have been 32 identified leaks—18 of them classified—since July 1990.

Mr. Woolcott says that is a low proportion of the total 272,000 classified cables handled by the department in that time. One of the most dramatic cases was the leaking of correspondence from the U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, to Foreign Minister Gareth Evans about the changed security environment in Asia.

Mr. Woolcott conceded leaks undermine confidence in the department as the recipient and safeholder of materials.

[Begin Woolcott recording] In the trading of information between countries, senior representatives of say the United States, to take an example, are going to be less likely to tell us important things if they believe that they are going to read them in newspapers or be plagiarized. [end recording]

Criminals Running Guns to Papua New Guinea

BK0702104692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 7 Feb 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpts] Australian criminal syndicates have been running a guns for drugs exchange scheme with Papua New Guinea. Australia's justice minister, Michael Tate, today gave some details of the exchange of high-powered weapons for Papua New Guinea's cannabis. Graeme Dobell reports that Senator Tate was speaking at the end of the annual Australia-Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum held in Madang.

[Begin recording] [Dobell] Sen. Tate said he had given a three-year commitment to provide further aid to Papua New Guinea's police force, but the the justice minister also promised stepped-up liaison work, saying that the law and order problem in Papua New Guinea was not just cause by gangs of local rascals. Sen. Tate said there was evidence of Australian criminals making connections with Papua New Guinea.

[Tate] There is undoubtedly a move by Australian crime syndicates to traffic arms into Papua New Guinea in return for cannabis coming down from plantations in Papua New Guinea. As we are more successful in (?seeking out) and destroying plantations in Australia, there have been incentives for Australian crime syndicates to have the growing done here in Papua New Guinea and bring the cannabis down. Of course, they traffic arms in exchange for powerful weapons which, of course, can be used to stir up trouble, and even rebellion.

[Dobell] What sort of weapons and what have they been used for?

[Tate] Well, as I say they are high-powered weapons, in some instances, and they are being used to [words indistinct] in local conflict situation and of course, could form a basis for more violent sustained incidence and possibly in rebellious movements.

[Dobell] How many of these arm shipments do you know of?

[Tate] Well, I do not have to talk about operational matters, but there is growing evidence of this trafficking, not only across Torres Strait, which is very vulnerable as a passage, concern not only to us involved in law enforcement, but of course, quarantine and health officials too. There is also some evidence of flights, of course, into north Queensland from Papua New Guinea, and it is this that Sir Michael Somare in particular is intending to deal with. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, said his government is worried that Australian weapons could be used to disrupt the Papua New Guinea elections later this year. Sir Michael said one crate of Australian guns had been seized in Mount Hagen. The foreign minister said that from next week all small planes flying into Papua New Guinea would have to go first to Port Moresby for customs clearance before they flew anywhere else in the country. [passage omitted]

Papua New Guinea

Namaliu Assures Visitors PNG Investments Sound

BK0602060092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 Feb 92

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government has assured a visiting Australian ministerial delegation that investment in the country is sound despite recent law and order problems. Michael Troy reports from Madang where the fourth PNG-Australian Ministerial Forum opens today.

[Begin Troy recording] During the next two days the two delegations will discuss future aid grants, trade issues, the environment, regional security, and Bougainville. In opening the forum, PNG Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said resource development projects such as the (Korbara) gold mine were vital to the country's future.

In the wake of the attack on the nearby Mount (Karli) gold mine which was destroyed last month, Mr. Namaliu said he could assure Australian investors steps were being taken to maintain economic stability and confidence.

Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, also called on the Papua New Guinea Government to act on the law and order problem to assure investor confidence, but in referring to the Bougainville crisis, Sen. Evans said the humanitarian aspect should also not be neglected. [end recording]